



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Outer Church Merchants Lose Ramp Fight

By Denise Minor

The battle's over.

The city's Public Transportation Commission voted unanimously on March 25 to resume construction on the much-disputed handicapped access ramps for the J-Church streetcars in upper Noe Valley.

Mayor Willie Brown had ordered construction halted in January after an outpouring of neighborhood support for Church Street merchants convinced him that the parking spaces eliminated by the ramps would place undue hardship on their businesses.

Brown eventually decided to support a compromise plan to move one of the two boarding platforms from Church Street to adjoining 30th Street, but that held no sway with the commissioners.

"Delay is an affront to the process and to the spirit of the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act]," said Commission Vice President Kathleen Knox. "Access [to transportation] isn't just to this community, but to the entire city."

Customers at Church Street businesses near the planned ramps were greeted by glum faces on the days following the vote.

"I'm really, really tired," said John Hilas, owner of Church Produce at 1798 Church St. "I've been to every single meeting over the years, and at every meeting they say they feel sorry for us, they ask some questions, and then they vote the same every time."

Hilas' store will be one of the businesses most affected by the construction. The half-block outbound ramp will be on Church between 30th and Day streets, in front of his corner produce store. The block-long inbound ramp will be between Day and 29th streets.

"We asked them to move one — just one — of the ramps off Church Street. The disabled people can go a half block further," said Hilas. "But it's as if the disabled people have every right, and we have no rights."

"I'm really scared that I'm going to lose my business," he continued. "I'm 52, I have kids. I don't know what I'll do."

Besides losing parking near his store, Hilas will have to ask his delivery trucks to unload around the corner.

Dave Monks, president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, was also disheartened. "I'm very disappointed. We all worked really hard on what we thought was a good compromise," he said.

The compromise was a design by Muni engineers to place a ramp combined with a bulb bus stop on 30th Street. Muni department head Emilio Cruz had ordered the design after two meetings he held with the Church Street merchants, area residents, and disabled rights activists.

But Cruz said he was struck by what seemed to him to be a lack of consensus from the neighborhood, since 30th Street residents at the meetings objected to the ramps being placed on their street.

Monks feared that objections from the 30th Street residents had hurt the merchants' cause in the eyes of Cruz and the Transportation Commission.

"We were undermined by a handful of 30th Street residents who came to the battle late in the game," said Monks. "They would have had to face a loss of three parking spaces, but their issues paled in comparison to what the merchants faced."

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- Don Johnson Claims He's Been Sexually Harassed in Noe Valley by Over 40 Women and Some Younger Ones, Too
- Food Craze: Nothin' Says Lovin' Like Blubber from the Oven
- Dr. Laura Scandal—She's Not Really Her Son's Mom!
- Pigeon Lady Follows *The Rules*, Now Betrothed to Prince Charles
- Here She Comes, It's Cathy's Clone

But 30th Street resident Mitch Cohen felt otherwise.

"Thirtieth Street is very busy, and substantially narrower than Church Street. They were going to move the streetcar tracks one-and-a-half feet—putting them very close to the sidewalk. That is certainly a safety concern," said Cohen.

Also, pedestrians crossing 30th Street to board the streetcar would be taking a big risk, he said. "It's pretty hazardous to cross 30th at Chenery as it is. I think it would be worse for people in wheelchairs," said Cohen.

Many of Cohen's neighbors were also angry about the loss of parking on 30th Street. "A lot of the residents on 30th don't have garages. Those who do were concerned about getting in and out of their driveways," he said.

The 30th Street neighbors were also irritated that they had not been officially informed of the plan to put the ramp on their

Residents Fuming Over Odors from Hahn's Hibachi

By Joe Franklin

Noe Valley residents living within a two-block radius of Hahn's Hibachi, the Korean barbecue at the corner of Castro and 24th streets, have been plugging their noses since the cafe opened just over a year ago. Now after months of complaining about the restaurant's aroma, and not sensing much relief, the neighbors are starting to steam.

They claim the barbecue smoke, emitted from the restaurant's exterior exhaust system, wafts into nearby back yards and through open windows, causing itchy eyes, irritated asthma, shortened tempers, and a general degradation of lifestyle.

"I've lived here for 25 years, and once in a while we get a little whiff of garlic from Little Italy," says Jersey Street resident Lawrence Kulig. "But this stuff from Hahn's is overwhelming."

Hahn's owner David Bass says he has taken steps to curb the exhaust, including increasing the thickness of charcoal filters above the grill from 2 to 8 inches, installing larger and more powerful ventilating fans, and boosting the exhaust system to shoot the smells higher into the air, up over neighboring rooftops. He asks local residents to bear with him until he can correct the problem.

"The last thing I want to do is upset the people around me, because they're my neighbors and generally my customers."

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Under the Lid:

The True Story of Noe Valley's Garbage Collectors

By Rayne Reynolds Wolfe

I catch up with Noe Valley's Sunset Scavenger crew at 6 a.m. one icy morning at Castro and 24th streets. Already an hour into his shift, route supervisor Mike Bell is ankle deep in sushi scraps, spilled from an overturned can in front of Hamano Sushi.

"It's usually drunks," he explains, pulling off one thick glove to shake hands amicably. "Dunks kick the cans over, and we gotta pick 'em up. It's just part of the job." As he speaks, Bell expertly hooks a can to the "tipper," the device that flips the



Refuse collectors Carlos Gonzales, Mike Bell, and Gary Morganti—occasionally joined by "merry-go-round" worker Joyce Hume—start their rubbish removal on 24th Street at 5 a.m. Photo by Beverly Tharp

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April on 24th Street. The above photo, taken in April of '96, can serve as your weather forecast for this year. Keep your umbrella handy, and remember that the May flowers (or is it May fog?) can't be far away. Photo by Beverly Tharp

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Ramps Stay on Church Street

Continued from Page 1

street. The only way they learned about a March meeting at the mayor's office was through the grapevine.

"Two people showed up anyway," said Cohen. "And when one of the merchants claimed that there was a neighborhood consensus to put the ramp on 30th Street, they said no, there was not a consensus."

"We were angry about the lack of inclusion of 30th Street residents," he continued. "Lack of inclusion is what the merchants were concerned about all along."

Dean Goodwin, the mayor's representative for the key stop issue, said that he too thought the 30th Street residents made the difference in the commission vote.

Faced with the pressure the commission was receiving from the handicapped community, coupled with the 5- to 12-month delay that would have been caused by a new design, Goodwin said he believed the commission was worried about a lawsuit that would force them to comply with the ADA.

"If they were going to take on that kind of risk, they would have wanted to have the whole Noe Valley community behind the change," he said. "If all the testimony from the neighborhood was in support of moving the ramp, I think you would have seen a different vote — possibly even three to two in favor."

Goodwin added that he knew a number of disabled people who favored a compromise to help the merchants but who had not spoken at public meetings because they were reluctant to go against disabled activists.

Tom Maravilla, co-owner of Mikeytom Market at 1747 Church St., said he was furious after the commission vote. It also occurred to him, and to others who preferred to remain off the record, that the vote might have been staged. "The way Brown works, I can't imagine that the commissioners would vote against him and Emilio Cruz."

Muni had always objected to moving the ramps to 30th Street, particularly because putting ramps there would double the project's cost.

Brown only belatedly gave his support to the merchants after newly-elected Supervisor Leland Yee of Noe Valley convinced him to listen to neighborhood concerns. Then in late January, Brown directed Cruz to come up with a plan to move at least one of the ramps.

However, disabled activists, particu-

larly the Muni Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), vowed to fight any changes to the key stops. According to AAC Chairperson Bruce Oka, the group would have taken the city to court to keep the project on track.

Maravilla said that by publicly supporting the neighborhood but having their hands tied by the commission vote, Brown and Cruz end up looking like good guys. "I'm in awe of how everyone comes out smelling like roses from this."

Public Transportation Commission Secretary Roberta Boomer adamantly denied the vote had been a behind-closed-doors deal. "Deciding beforehand how they were going to vote would have been in violation of the San Francisco open meeting laws," she said. "It was not done."

Goodwin also denied a setup. "I know all the hours I have put into this — ten- and twelve-hour days in which I put my other work on hold. And people at Muni have been working like dogs to put together this alternative," said Goodwin. "It's ludicrous that we would do it for show."

Additionally, if the vote were fixed, it would have been divided. "Anyone wanting to create a perfect appearance would have made it a three-to-two vote," he said.

"And in reality, these are the same five commissioners who voted on it last year. There wasn't a whole lot of new information this time for them to consider," Goodwin added.

Maravilla said he was exhausted and disillusioned by the entire process. Part of his disillusionment stemmed from what he called a "hit piece" in the March 5 edition of the *S.F. Weekly*. The commentary, "Willie's Railroad Job," blasted Brown for caving in to Noe Valley neighborhood businesses at the expense of the disabled community.

The article featured a photo of Maravilla and insinuated that he had enough clout with local voters he could harm Brown politically.

"I was quoted completely out of context," Maravilla said. "The reporter who interviewed me didn't write the story. Her notes were handed over to two writers whom I never even spoke with."

"It was a hit piece on Brown, and they used the neighborhood to do it," Maravilla concluded.

Goodwin said he hoped a few small things could be done to help the merchants. The city intends to plant new trees to replace those cut down during construction, he said. And it will be open to the idea of neighborhood parking permits.

"I'm very tired, and I'm sorry the result came as it did," said Goodwin. "I really wish the vote had been different." □



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Neighbors Sick of Barbecue Fumes

Continued from Page 1

said Bass. "I know I wouldn't like [the smoke] in my life, and that's why I'm making these improvements. I'm continuing to work with it the best I can."

"Before we put this system in, the smoke and odors were far, far worse," Bass said. "I've run into a series of maintenance difficulties, but I think that now, with these latest improvements, things are going to work out pretty good."

Lois Eugenio, who has lived at the corner of Jersey and Castro streets for 24 years, says the crusade to quell the Hahn's odors goes beyond just a couple of households—the entire neighborhood has gotten involved.

"We had a meeting last April where 20 or so people came, including Mr. Bass," she said. "He told us repairs would be expensive, but that he would see to them. Well, nothing has worked, and we've given him over a year, and we want the odor gone. That's all we want."

Eugenio admits that the fumes blow her way a little less often than they used to, but when they do invade her house, the odors are as bad as ever. "If I have any windows open, it comes right in and hangs like a burnt soy sauce smell," she said.

Lorraine Sherrill, who lives two blocks away at the corner of Castro and 26th streets, says that Hahn's smoke has triggered asthma attacks and driven her indoors on many occasions.

"Mr. Bass better quit messing around and go for the big guns," she said. "I've lived here for 67 years now. This is a good neighborhood, and I want it to stay a good neighborhood. As it is, people can't work in their back yards or sit out on their

porches. He's out of compliance, he knows he's out of compliance, and he still operates."

Sherrill is referring to the neighbors' contention that Bass is operating Hahn's Hibachi under a fast-food permit while employing a wait staff, which would require him to have a full-service permit.

She and other residents have laid their case before Friends of Noe Valley and the East & West of Castro Improvement Club. They've also asked the Planning Department to investigate. If the city decides Hahn's takeout is indeed a full-service restaurant, Bass might need to apply for a conditional use permit. This would give nearby dwellers an opportunity to voice their concerns in a public forum.

But Bass thinks the permit issue is a smokescreen, being raised just to make matters more difficult for him.

"It's like a Catch-22," he said. "If we didn't have a wait staff, it'd be so congested with people standing at the counter that it would be a safety problem. We've got to sit them down to keep the area inside the restaurant open. Until now, the permits haven't been an issue; the odors are the issue. Most of the people who live near here either one, don't care about the smell, or two, enjoy it."

Lawrence Kulig finds that hard to believe. He started a petition to have the smells snuffed, and gathered 30 signatures from his Jersey Street neighbors within just a few days.

"We have nothing against Mr. Bass, the food, or the employees. Rene [the chef], who's been working with us, has been an absolute charm," he said. "However, the pungent odors are Mr. Bass' responsibility. When you open a restaurant, you've got to have the wherewithal to take care of these kinds of things."

Kulig said the neighbors' next move might be to write the city attorney and ask whether the restaurant could be cited for violation of Section 790.90(3) of the

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health code. It states, "Noise and odors shall be contained within the premises so as not to be a nuisance to nearby residents or neighbors."

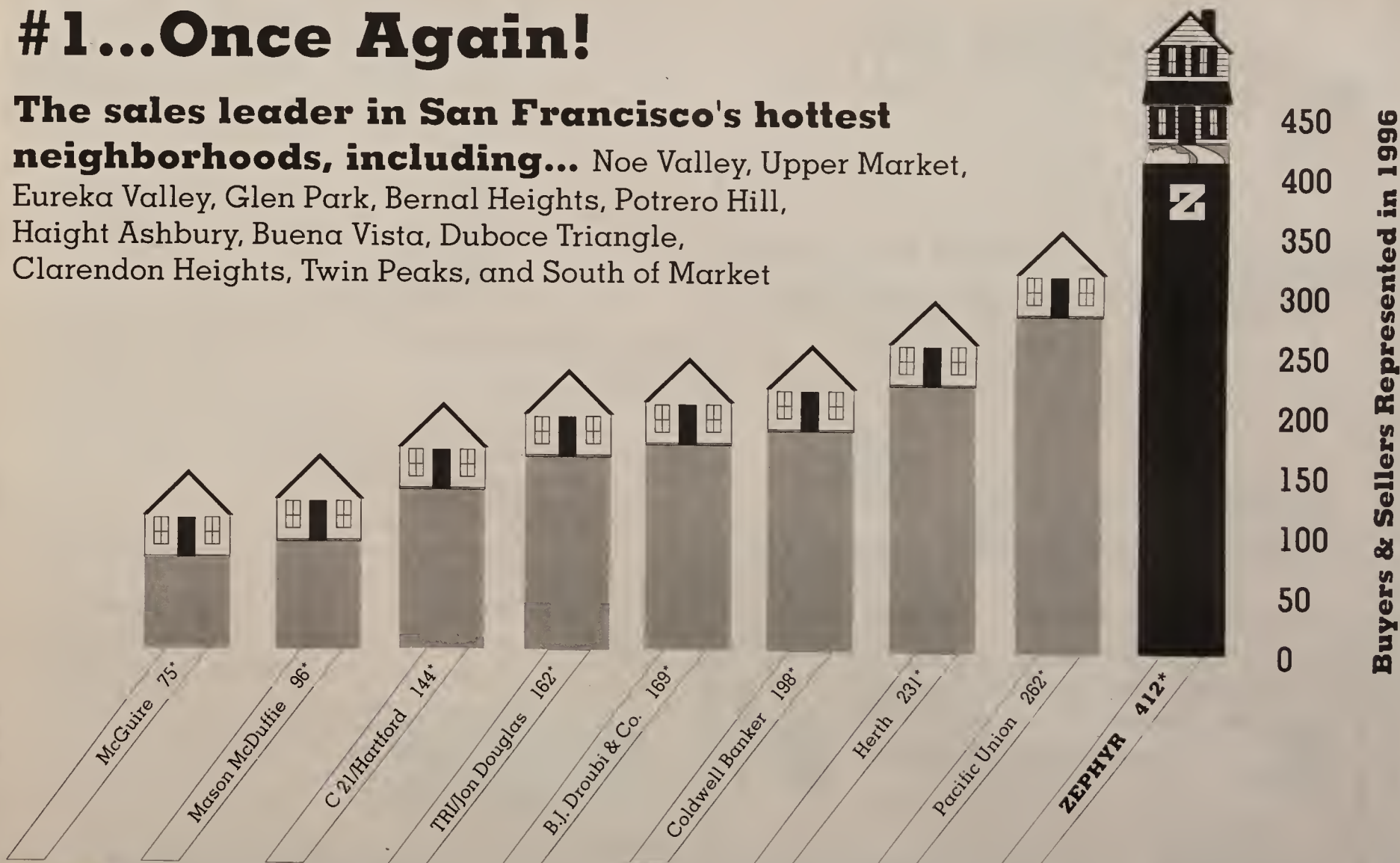
"If you eat at Hahn's, you want to smell it, but we live here and we can't make that decision," said Kulig.

"I don't think Mr. Bass knows how serious this is with the community. People want to enjoy the privacy of their home, and now they can't do it." □

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LETTERS 32¢

David Soracchi Remembered

Editor:

Thank you for running the story on the murder of David Soracchi in the March issue ["60-Year-Old Church Street Man Charged with Murder"]. Since it didn't appear in the *Chronicle*, *Examiner*, or on TV or radio, I was afraid it would never be covered and made public.

I have been friends with David Soracchi for 17 years and am familiar with the events leading up to the shooting.

According to David, his landlord—the man accused of David's murder—had serious drinking and financial problems. David told me about a number of disturbing incidents at 1027 Church St., but because I do not want to jeopardize the outcome of the trial, I am not at liberty to discuss them here.

I can tell you that David was saving his money and looking for another place to live when he was brutally murdered on Jan. 25. He was a working professional who had just begun a job as a technical writer in Silicon Valley. Before that, he taught courses in English at U.C. Berkeley and at San Francisco City College. As long as I have known him, he had never been violent and had never even carried a weapon.

Although David had lived all over San Francisco in the past 20 years, he loved Noe Valley the best. It was the only neighborhood he kept coming back to, drawn to its social and cultural advantages. Had he been able to find another apartment in Noe Valley, he certainly would have moved from the Church Street address before this tragic event occurred.

He was a regular at Martha's, Spinelli's, Barney's, Good News, Streetlight Records, the old Meat Market, and Phoenix Books. He was an avid reader of Greek mythology and of Poe, Twain, Balzac, Steinbeck, London, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

He sang, as a pretty fair tenor, in the San Francisco Chorus at Davies Symphony Hall, and he thoroughly enjoyed attending the San Francisco Opera. He was also an accomplished writer who had published opera reviews on the Web.

He will certainly be missed.

David's family will hold a memorial service for him in Brooklyn, N.Y., later this year. For details, people can call me or my wife at 746-3567.

Dennis Williamson
Noe Valley resident

Zippy Could Go to Nike with Mikey

Hi, folks:

I have an idea for a very "Noe Valley" strip for cartoonist Bill Griffith.

How about a cartoon where Zippy accompanies Mikey Tom to Nike Town? This would be fertile ground for comment on retailing and social responsibility.

Carrie Helser

A loyal reader of the *Voice*

Ramp Fight Is Army Street Revisited

Editor:

This is regarding the anonymous letter from the person from Chenery Street who is "virtually in the shadow of St. Paul's Church" [March 1997]. Well, I live at 29th and Sanchez and I can't even see the shadow of St. Paul's Church, yet I am quite a bit closer to the church than you are.

What the ramp debate is about is City Hall trying to force down our throats one more issue without so much as consulting the neighborhood first. Remember the Army Street debacle? That wasn't about naming the street after Cesar Chavez. That was about the fact that the Board of Supervisors was forcing us to accept their



Dennis Williamson and friend David Soracchi (right) in happier times.

Photo courtesy Dennis Williamson.

decision without our input. They used the emotional appeal of the issue in their favor on that one, too.

The same now applies to the ramp issue. It isn't about handicapped access to the neighborhood. The protest is about the fact that the neighborhood wasn't consulted again.

If we the citizens don't put our foot down now, the government will continue to step on our toes. By the way, do you like the trees that are missing in front of Star Bakery?

Name NOT withheld:
Matthew Arntzen
Via e-mail

Bethany Ends Pot Distribution

Editor:

On behalf of the congregation at Bethany United Methodist Church, I would like to extend my thanks to our neighbors


Continued Next Page



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LETTERS

Continued from Previous Page

for their support of our decision to be a distribution site for medicinal marijuana over the past few months. I'd also like to inform our community that we will no longer be a distribution site, now that the medical emergency has passed (with the passage of Prop. 215) and cannabis buyers clubs have reopened in San Francisco.

We are grateful for the understanding of our Noe Valley neighbors, as we sought to respond to the needs of those who are sick. Many of you stopped me on the street to ask about the program, and I appreciated your interest and comments.

Thank you for your continued support as we seek to offer a ministry of healing and reconciliation in our community, the city, and the world.

Rev. Karen P. Oliveto
Pastor, Bethany Methodist Church
1268 Sanchez St.

Are Jets Buzzing Noe Valley?

Editor:

I'm a new resident in Noe Valley. We moved to our home on Alvarado Street, a half block from the Alvarado Elementary School, in November of last year. I've read the last two issues of the *Noe Valley Voice* hoping to find a story on a subject which I thought would be on the minds of others living in Noe Valley.

The noise of jets flying over the valley, our home at the foot of Twin Peaks, and the ridge that is the northern end of Bernal Heights is loud and pretty constant. Is this a problem that just bothers me, or is it an issue with others?

Ray Bruijnes
Via e-mail

Editor's note: The Voice did stories on airplane noise and flight patterns in the November '86, June '88, and March '90 issues (on file at the Noe Valley Library). But it may be time to do another. Do residents think jet noise over Noe Valley has increased? Call the Airport Noise Abatement Center, 876-2219.

More Blue Zones for 24th Street

Editor:

Two questions? Why are there only two disabled parking spaces in Noe Valley, both in the same block (one by St. Clair's liquor store, another in front of Starbucks)?

How about putting one in front of Bank of America, another on Sanchez at 24th and Sanchez, and another on Noe at Noe and 24th?

There are many elders and disabled people who can't make an outing to 24th Street to do their banking or shopping without having this convenience.

At Starbucks the constant flow of drivers stopping en route to work keeps the area congested and increases double parking.

I'd also like to see the disabled parking spot in Bell Market's lot moved away from the recycling area—I've had verbal abuse there.

And how about the carts at the markets being cleaned on a regular basis? I've had to clean out and wipe off the carts and handles before I can shop with them—just simple sanitary precautions. I don't want to spread my germs, and I really don't want anyone else's.

Thanks for listening.

Kim Mercuri Bullis
A fulltime Noe Valley resident and shopper

Sprint Drops Firehouse Antennas Idea

By Anne Gates

Sprint has put on hold its plan to install a wireless communications facility on the roof of Station 24, the firehouse at 100 Hoffman Ave. But the long-distance company may be scouting for another location in Noe Valley.

At a meeting with neighbors on Feb. 26, Sprint Cellular representative Darin Buchalter said the firehouse plan had been "continued indefinitely"—in other words, put on the back burner for now. The Planning Department confirmed that no hearings were currently scheduled.

Buchalter added, however, that the demand for digital phone service remained high and that Sprint still wanted to find an appropriate site for its antennas.

Bob Kelly, Sprint's director of public relations, would not comment on any alternative sites, nor would he discuss any timetable for a decision.

As reported in the *Voice* last month, Sprint was seeking approval to install four antennas and a base transceiver station atop the newly renovated firehouse at Hoffman and Alvarado streets. The antennas were approximately 5 feet high by 8 inches wide. The station measured 6 feet high by 16 feet wide by 9 feet deep.

But before the project got to the hearing stage, firehouse neighbors voiced complaints about the facility's size and appearance. They also asked Sprint to guarantee there would be no increased health risks due to EMFs (electromagnetic fields).

At the Feb. 26 meeting, Buchalter assured residents that the radio-frequency

radiation levels of the antennas would be far below the levels allowed by federal standards.

But according to Noe Valley resident Harry Stern, Buchalter got less than a warm reception. The neighbors who attended the meeting said they were doubtful that current federal statutes took into account new claims about the possible links between EMFs and cancer.

"A lot of people in the audience were concerned about EMFs," said Stern. "The audience was so focused on the issue of potential health hazards that the discussion never got to the aesthetics issue."

However, plan opponents had already pointed out that a modern telecommunications fixture would mar the newly restored firehouse, an 85-year-old landmark building. Hoffman resident John Odell, among others, had urged his neighbors to "mobilize against this atrocity."

After the meeting, Odell remained suspicious of any plan emanating from Sprint. "They have the slick brochures, and they talk about being neighbors, but I question their credibility and good will," Odell said.

Georgia Finnigan, of Friends of Noe Valley, said her group would be on the alert for any news from Sprint. "There seem to be broad-based concerns regarding potential health hazards from the residents," she said.

The Planning Department also promised to let residents know of any future hearings. (The neighborhood groups and all those within a 300-foot radius of a proposed site will be automatically notified.)

In the meantime, those who'd like to talk to Sprint directly can call its community hotline, 273-5800. □



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Our Garbage Collectors— They Try To Be Quiet

Continued from Page 1

can up into the mouth of the truck.

With 18 years on the job — the past three in Noe Valley — Bell is a refuse collector (today's term for "garbage man") who understands the trashiest needs of the neighborhood's residents. And as one of 400 employee/owners of Sunset Scavenger, he is dedicated to keeping his customers happy.

"I have to work hard. I work with my name on my shirt," he says.

A volunteer minister with his church, Bell sets a righteous pace for co-workers Joyce Hume and Gary Morganti as the trio performs an intricate ballet of rubbish removal. They move down 24th Street, turn right on Noe, turn right on Jersey, and then head back up Jersey to Castro, completing the circle of that block. Sticking to one side of the street, they go round and round, block after block, moving east along 24th Street toward Dolores.

They are well aware that in warm beds all around them people are trying to enjoy those last few minutes of sleep, so the crew moves silently, using hand signals instead of words. All eyes are on Bell, who is coach, choreographer, and drum major rolled into one. A tilt of his head tells Morganti it's time to move the truck up. A pointed finger reminds Hume to secure a lid. They take turns opening alleyway doors, lifting cans, engaging the crusher, and sidestepping recycling bins.

And they *run* while they work. (Okay,

they can leave early if they finish early.) But still, they go really fast. Maybe that's why kids like them so much.

"Little kids get so excited to see us — firemen and garbage men. Kids always wave and smile," says Bell, chuckling.

Besides wowing the tykes, the garbage collectors do other cool things. They banter with bums. They scare off car stereo thieves. They roust raccoons. Coolest of all, they take away the stuff you held out on a tennis racket to dump into your trash can — the Chinese takeout with green and black mold two inches high, the vacuum dust bag you emptied after flea-bombing your house, the cat barf hidden inside a ball of two dozen damp paper towels.

And they come rain or shine. Sunset Scavenger hasn't missed a single day of operation in 75 years of service.

Of course, the job is not always a bed of roses. There are a few thorns, like needles, glass, and rodents.

Mike Bell

"On a day when it's sprinkling a little but not raining, if you take off your yellow slicker, it will rain. We make one guy keep a slicker on — so it won't rain."

Bell says the rare exposed needle is the crew's most feared encounter — hence the big leather gauntlet-style gloves. Next on the list is slivers of glass. The bars along 24th Street — the Rovers, the Dubliner, the Rat and Raven — are pretty conscientious about packing their cans and bins, says the crew. Unfortunately, a lot of broken beer bottles can hit the streets between 2 and 5 a.m.

The worst days of the year are "Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, in that order," says Bell. He's not too fond of Halloween either, because of the rotting pumpkins.

Do customers ever want things back?

"Oh, all the time," the crew says in unison. People accidentally throw away their paychecks, jewelry, keys, even the cash they've stashed in that December 1941 issue of *Life* magazine.

(Bell, Hume, and Morganti note that if you can catch the truck while it's still on your block, they will pull out as much as they can from the crusher. They have even gone so far as to dump out an entire load on the platform and let people comb through it with rakes.)

But how do they deal with the stench?

"You disconnect your nose — you have to," says Hume, a 10-year veteran of Sunset Scavenger. "It's funny, though. When you go on vacation and come back — whew! — you have to disconnect it all over again." Hume's dog, Daisy, on the other hand, just loves the smells. "When I come home, I can't get her off me!"

Hume is one of a growing number of women who ride the city's garbage trucks. A popular helper, she rotates among crews, or as they say down at the dump, she does the "merry-go-round."

"People ask for her, she's that good," says operations manager Paul Giusti, who joins us as we walk into Happy Donuts for a coffee break.

It's 7:30 a.m., and Gary Morganti gets his coffee "to go." It's his turn to drive to the dump and empty the truck.

Meanwhile, Giusti — who's worked for the company for 19 years — explains the tricks of the trade. Success on the job requires physical strength, cooperation, and motivation. As teamsters with Local 350, the Sunset Scavenger crews bid on different neighborhoods, with the cushier routes, like Noe Valley, going to those with the most skill and seniority.

Many workers are third- or even fourth-generation employees. They learned everything they know from working with their dads. Morganti, for example, is a second-generation employee. His mom works in the office. Giusti's dad drove a truck, and three of his four brothers are also at Sunset.

There's only one slight problem with this family tradition.

"Nobody lets you forget," Giusti says. "If your dad didn't set a brake on a truck and it rolled into a house, 20 years later some guy will bring it up, like it was your fault, like it's a family trait."

Losing a truck on a hill is everyone's biggest nightmare. It's not only embarrassing, it can prove lethal. Lesser crimes include locking the keys in the truck, bumping a fender, or simply missing the tip and spilling trash onto the street.

But stoicism runs deep at Sunset Scavenger. When Giusti was 10 years old and riding along with his dad's crew, he found a dead body in an alleyway.

"Hey, Dad," he whispered urgently, "I think that man's dead."

"So?" said his dad. "Is he *bothering* you?"

Joyce Hume

"You disconnect your nose — you have to. It's funny, though. When you go on vacation and come back — whew! — you have to disconnect it again."

Not every garbage collector has found a dead body, but they've all got dog or raccoon stories. Possum tales are plentiful, too. "If you see a thing that looks like a large mutant rat, that's a possum," says Hume. According to the crew, the city is crawling with them.

"The funny thing about possums is that they won't move," notes Bell. "If you try to push them along, they just roll up. You have to leave them alone. When they think it's safe, they'll walk off real slow."

Bell says he has yet to see a rat in Noe Valley. Then he adds, "Okay, a *live* rat." (He came across a dead rat the week before on 24th Street.)

Asked about superstitions on the job, he says, "I don't know if this is a superstition, but on a day when it's sprinkling a little but not raining, if you take off your yellow slicker, it will rain. We make one guy keep a slicker on — so it won't rain."

Continued on Page 9

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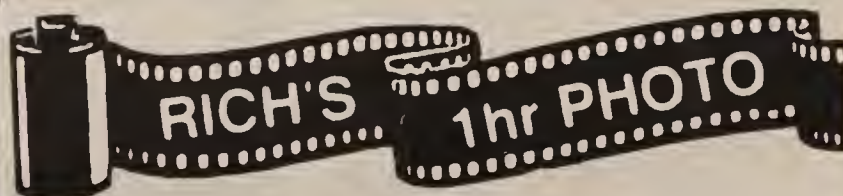
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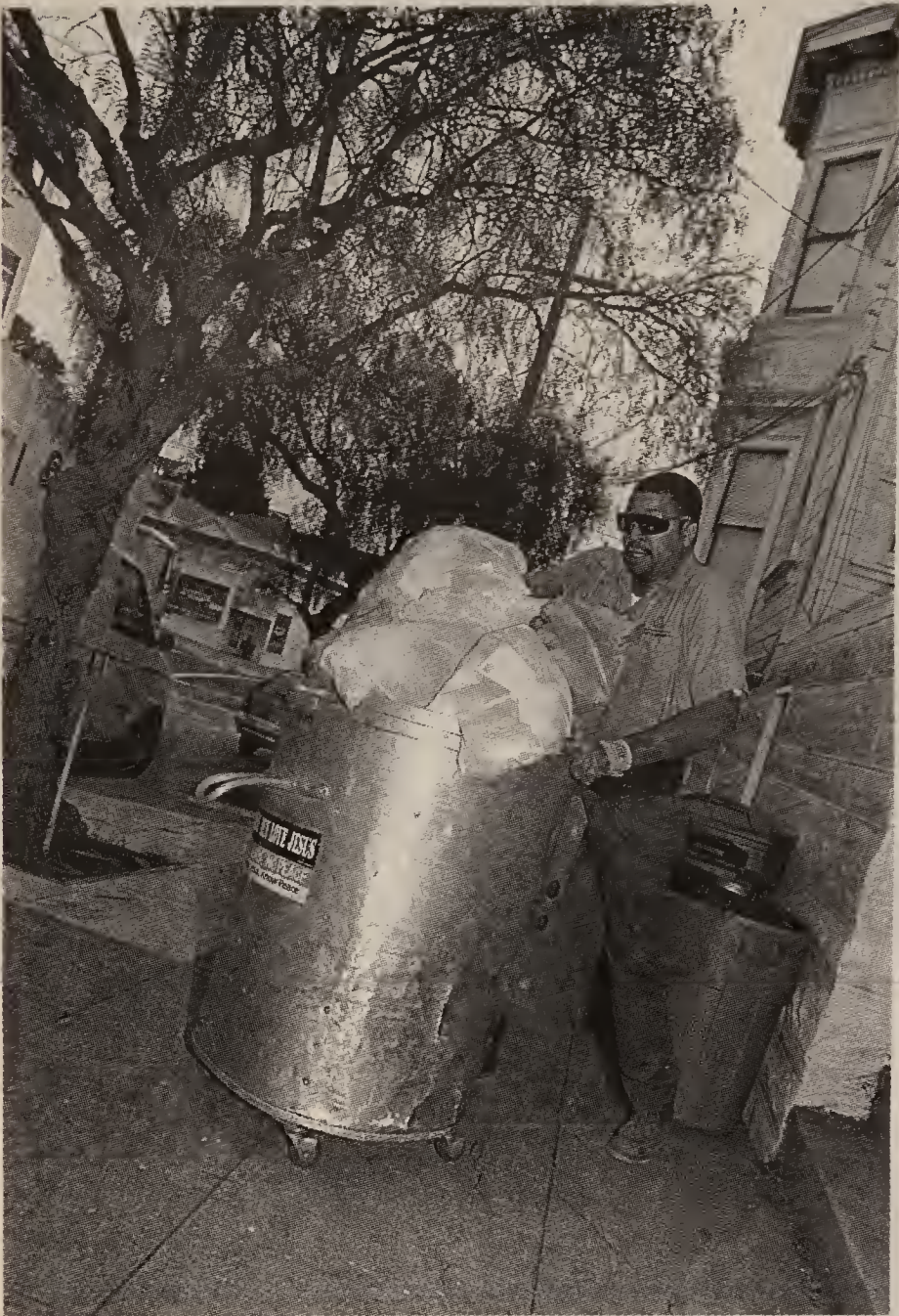
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Sunset Scavenger's Mike Bell tries his best to be quiet while performing his job as lead choreographer for garbage pickup along 24th, Jersey, and Elizabeth streets. Photo by Beverly Thorp

What It's Like to Be a Garbage Man (or Woman)

Continued from Previous Page

It was drizzling one pre-dawn morning when one of Giusti's brothers came upon a Hispanic woman standing in the middle of the street, yelling for help. Between his Italian and her Spanish, he figured out that the woman was a nanny who had put her young charge in his highchair and then stepped outside to grab the morning newspaper. When the door blew shut, locking her out, she panicked. There was no one but the baby in the house.

Paul Giusti

"Nobody lets you forget. If your dad didn't set a brake on a truck and it rolled into a house, twenty years later some guy will bring it up, like it was your fault, like it's a family trait."

Giusti calmed her down and ran to the truck for his keys. (Yes, our garbage collectors have keys to many alleyways. The keys are not marked, however, and they learn their order by fingering them one by one as they work. They know, for example, that your key is two keys after the Schlage key, just before the bent Master key that has to be jiggled in your next-door neighbor's door.)

Correct key in hand, Giusti unlocked the alley door, went up the back stairs two at a time, hoisted himself onto a drainpipe, pried open the kitchen window, and climbed in. The baby watched from his highchair, hypnotized at the sight of a man breaking into his house.

"My brother always said that kid had

the funniest look on his face!"

By the time Giusti's brother came out the front door, a crowd of neighbors had gathered, and they gave him a round of applause.

As the clock strikes 8:00, the crew gulps their coffee a little quicker. Gary Morganti is due back soon.

"Remember when barkeepers used to open up for us and give us free drinks?" Giusti nudges Bell. "When I first started, a co-worker took me into a bar and said, 'What'll it be, Paul?' and I said, 'Hmmm, I don't know, a Coke?'"

"You'll have to do better than that," the co-worker solemnly informed him.

Long gone are the days of free drinks and working with a buzz-on. Now collectors are tested for drugs and alcohol, just like airline pilots. And woe to any collector trying to fend off a hangover. Hume shakes her head, "Don't ever confess to a hangover." You'll definitely be ordered to handle the most putrid restaurant spills and stir up the bin when the trash gets jammed.

When an employee retires, they get a gold watch and a mini-garbage can minted by the company that manufactures the big rolling cans. "Most of the guys use them as wine coolers," Giusti says with a laugh.

Too soon, the huge shadow of truck 48A falls across the formica table at Happy Donuts, and Morganti calls to the gang to drink up and jump back on board. Time to do the whirling dervish along Elizabeth, back up toward Diamond.

Surprisingly, there is no dragging of feet. Despite the smells, the weather, the hills—not to mention the 4.8 pounds per person of trash they cart off every day—the garbage collectors like their work and take pride in serving the community.

So the next time you have to carry something out of your place on a tennis racket, at least volley it into a plastic bag for Mike, Joyce, and Gary. In fact, put the lid on your can nice and tight, and turn the handle toward the street. □



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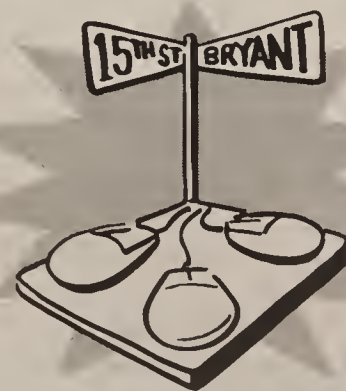
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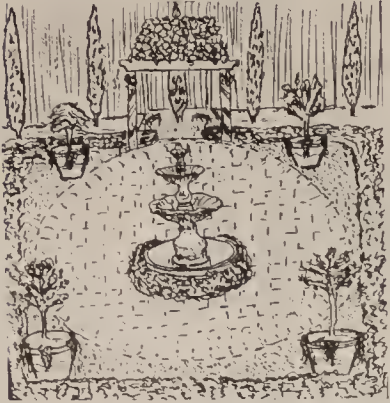


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Be You Can't Stick on Just One. This car is at rest on Sanchez Street while its owner searches for another sticker. Photo by Pamela Gerard

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POLICE BEAT

Robberies Plunge In February

By Officer Lois Perillo

Although one robbery is one too many, any reduction in the crime rate is welcome news. During the month of February, Noe Valley reported just one robbery.

On Feb. 2, just after 7 p.m., two men entered Walgreen's on Castro Street. One man, 35 years old, approached the check-out counter with a pack of gum, then lifted his jacket to display a gun to the worker. The suspect then reached into the register, removed the cash tray, and stole currency from the tray. Both men ran from the store, eastbound on Jersey.

Although the responding officer arrived within one minute of the store's 911 call, the suspects were not located. A Crime Scene Investigations technician processed evidence at the scene.

Four Break-ins Reported

The Noe Valley community reported four burglaries in February.

The first happened sometime between 10:30 at night on Feb. 1 and 9:30 a.m. the next day on the 100 block of Grand View. It was listed as an attempted burglary in which the suspect tried to pry open a garage door.

On Feb. 7, St. Philip's School was targeted a little after 9 p.m. The full report on this break-in was unavailable at press time. I hope to have details next month.

In another incident, at about 2 p.m. on Feb. 20, a ladder stored outside a house, coupled with an unlocked window, gave a leg up to a burglar targeting a house on the first block of Homestead Street. The suspect's accomplice, according to a witness, was driving a dark-colored, late '80s, compact foreign car to the scene to pick up the suspect, who was also seen exiting the front door carrying a box, presumably containing stolen goods. Unfortunately, the burglary was not reported until the resident returned home at 10 p.m.

Tip: If you see a suspicious person entering or leaving your neighbor's property, call the police and provide a description, including any associated vehicle. You are our eyes and ears — we depend on your observations.

In the last reported burglary, the basement of a construction site on the 500 block of Diamond was burglarized between Feb. 27 and March 6.

By the way, a recent dip in city burglaries may be tied to the Feb. 4 arrest of a 35-year-old parolee living on the 4200 block of 22nd Street. The man, who was on parole for burglary, was arrested on a warrant and returned to state prison.

The Tale of the Busted Boosters

Thanks to the keen observations of two witnesses who called police, a 21-year-old and a 17-year-old suspect were arrested for illegally entering an unlocked vehicle and stealing the vehicle's radio, ripping the dashboard in the process.

The suspects, alleged 11th Street gang members known by the monikers Pee Wee and Wager, were spotted entering a pickup truck on Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. on the 4400 block of 24th Street. Officers Diane McKeivt and Michael Wilson responded and found the suspects walking on Hoffman Avenue. The suspects were identified by the witnesses. Officers Vic Silveira and Andy Castro aided the investigation by establishing the suspects' gang affili-

ations, finding their auto, and recovering the stolen radio from the vehicle.

The older suspect was on probation and had an outstanding warrant for auto theft. At the time of his arrest, he was wearing an electronic monitoring device on his ankle. His probation was revoked, and he was sent back to jail.

22nd Street House Told to Watch It

Residents of 22nd and Worth streets may be heartened to know that the city attorney's office has notified the property owner at 4252 22nd St. that "the above-referenced property has been brought to the attention of the City Attorney's Task Force for allegedly creating a public nuisance [by] allowing unsanitary conditions and drug activity to exist on the premises."

The notice went on to say that Police Department records show that "there have been numerous calls for service to the police since 1994, regarding arrests and/or drug activity on the property."

The notice also warned that the city attorney has the power to compel the property owner and tenants to eliminate the public nuisance. A health and safety inspection will be scheduled shortly.

Patrol and Parole

At the end of January, I was thrown to the ground and injured by a parolee, whom I subsequently chased, caught, and routed to San Quentin Prison. It turned

out the man was on parole for stealing a vehicle several years ago while trying to escape my beat partner, Officer Lorraine Lombardo. She was trying to arrest him for stealing merchandise from Thrifty's on 24th Street. He was caught then, and he was caught again in January.

After my encounter, I was ordered to San Quentin to testify at the suspect's parole hearing, where the only people in attendance were the hearing officer, parole officer, prison officer, and the witness—me. (For your information, a suspect is not entitled to representation at this hearing, whose purpose is to determine whether he or she will be imprisoned and, if so, for how long.)

He was ordered to spend a year in jail. Meanwhile, I took six days of disability leave and am undergoing treatment for a neck and back injury. I received many good wishes from my fellow officers and the community. Thank you.

Until next time, be safe. See you on patrol. □

Community Police Officer Lois Perillo, along with partner Lorraine Lombardo, covers a beat bounded by Valencia, Cesar Chavez, Grand View, and 21st streets. To report a crime in progress, call 911. To contact Officer Perillo about a neighborhood problem, call 558-5400 or write Mission Police Station, 630 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110.



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Lance Fulford

Real Estate News

The Facts About Investing in Multiple- Unit Properties

By Lance Fulford

Century 21/Hartford Properties

In the Bay Area, we have reached the point where it is often cheaper to buy a unit than to rent one. Yet many people who might easily qualify as first-time home buyers remain reluctant to commit to the expense. It is true that prices for single-family dwellings are out of reach for many families. That's why we are seeing a growth in financial partnerships in multiple-unit properties. Increasingly, prospective home buyers are investigating condominiums and Tenancies in Common (TICs).

TICs allow buyers to share—say, part of a lovely Victorian, or a unit in a small complex—with partners. Purchase and maintenance costs are shared by a group of two or more owner/partners. Mutual agreements are drawn up, about making improvements, the splitting of maintenance costs, the sharing of common

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areas, and the settling of disputes. Partners may not always agree on what property improvements to make, for instance.

A big drawback to Tenancies in Common is the very real possibility that one of the partners could become unable or unwilling to pay his share of the loan. The other partner(s), of course, are liable for any shortfall on that note.

Some people are more comfortable entering into an agreement with an association of condominium owners. Each dwelling is separately financed, and the association usually assesses dues to cover expenses around the complex. Improvements and disputes are typically decided upon at association meetings.

Unlike TICs, the City of San Francisco places heavy restrictions on complexes wishing to convert to condos. (Example: no properties with more than six units.) An annual lottery limits the number of conversions allowed. But two-unit buildings are exempt from the lottery; there's no waiting to go condo.

Consequently, current owners of two-unit rental buildings may be completely unaware of the value of their buildings. It pays to investigate whether those units, with a few modifications, might qualify for conversion. Conversions to individually-marketed units can offer higher returns on the property investment.

Meanwhile, those first-time buyers who are willing to share the rewards and risks of partnerships can reap a respectable return on their real estate investment at the time of resale. Best of all, the money they previously spent on rent is now applied toward a home of their own.

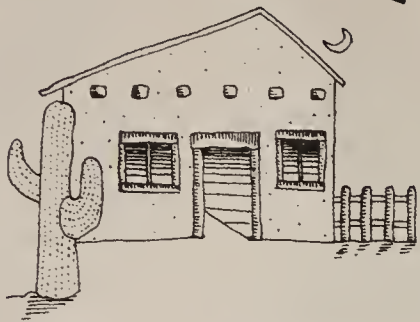
Lance Fulford is a partner in a real estate marketing team with associate Dan Marshall. Fulford has been the top producer for the San Francisco Century 21/Hartford Properties office for the past four years. He has extensive experience selling residential and commercial real estate. Fulford has a degree in Real Estate Finance and an M.B.A. in Management.

If you have questions about real estate investments, contact Lance Fulford at Century 21/Hartford Properties in San Francisco, (415) 863-7500 ext. 181.

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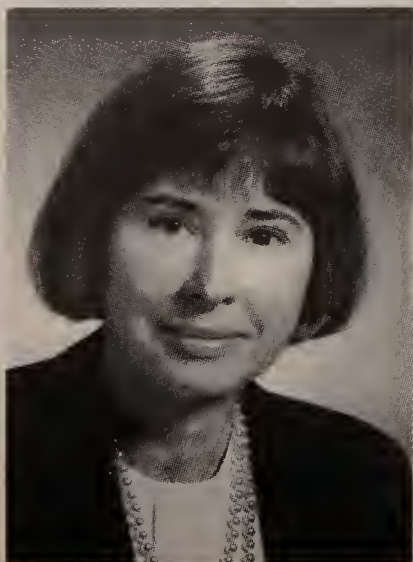
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Scouting for Parking in Downtown Noe Valley

By Elliot Poger

Lack of parking around 24th Street has long been a source of grief for Noe Valley residents and visitors. But with two large construction projects under way—the complex next to Bell Market and the Muni ramps along Church Street—the issue has taken on new urgency. Two neighborhood residents have tackled the problem with separate proposals for changing the way we park in the area.

Roddick Angles for Castro

Last July, Castro Street attorney Robert Roddick, who also serves as president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, began circulating a petition advocating diagonal parking on Castro Street near 24th (see September 1996 *Voice*). He has now collected over a thousand signatures, and they continue to flow in.

"It's amazing," he says. "I keep getting petitions sent to me."

The petition asks that both sides of Castro between 24th and Clipper be converted from parallel to angled parking.

Although the proposal seems popular among Noe Valley merchants, some residents have expressed concerns about safety, specifically the danger involved in backing out of diagonal parking spaces into oncoming traffic.

"I can understand the concern," Roddick concedes. But he thinks the neighborhood's need for more parking outweighs the risk. "We're talking tradeoffs here. Besides, a car that is being parallel-parked has to stop traffic twice: once when pulling in, and again when pulling out."

Since he first floated the idea, Roddick has become engaged in a game of "telephone tag" with City Hall. The last word he received was in early February, when he faxed a petition and traffic impact study (done by city planning student Kerio Hattori as a master's thesis) to mayor's assistant Dean Goodwin. Goodwin said he "would look into it."

Mark Rand, senior traffic engineer at the Department of Parking and Traffic, says he is aware of the petition but adds that the approval process is still in the early stages. In the coming weeks, the Department of Public Works will gather data, such as the number of spaces that could be created, in order to evaluate the proposal. Roddick estimates that 75 to 100 parking spaces could be gained.

The next step, evaluation by the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transport (ISCTT), may well be a rocky one. Rand predicts that Muni's representatives on the ISCTT will reject the proposal because of safety concerns in-



The parking derby on and around 24th Street has become so testy these days that both residents and merchants are lobbying for relief from the city's Parking and Traffic Department. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

volving the 24-Divisadero bus line on Castro Street.

Rejection by the committee would not necessarily doom the proposal, Rand says, but "in most cases, that's it."

Jersey Permit Zone Gets Bigger

Meanwhile, Jersey Street resident Ron Olsen has come up with a proposal of his own—the creation of a Residential Neighborhood Parking Zone around 24th Street (see February 1996 *Voice*).

Residents within the zone would obtain a special parking sticker for \$21 a year. Guest permits could also be purchased. Any car without a permit would be limited to two-hour parking in any one spot, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Current parking meter regulations would stay the same.

Olsen's original proposal limited permit parking to one block on either side of 24th Street from Douglass to Dolores streets, seven days a week. However, the proposal he turned in to City Hall last October extended the zone three blocks on either side of 24th, effective Monday through Saturday. That means it would go beyond Jersey and Elizabeth and be bounded instead by Clipper and Alvarado streets.

So far, Olsen has collected more than 400 signatures supporting the idea.

According to Olsen, a permit zone would discourage nonresidents from taking parking places that residents need. In particular, he takes offense at commuters who park their cars here in the morning and then ride Muni to work downtown.

Residents who oppose the zoning proposal say they resent the hassle of having to purchase a parking permit, and they fear that the parking zone will inconvenience visiting friends and relatives.

Olsen maintains that the permit zone would not keep visitors from coming to Noe Valley to shop, eat, or hang out on 24th Street.

"With the two-hour limit, they can go

out and move their cars," he says.

Olsen's proposal, like Roddick's, is inching its way through the city bureaucracy. However, the word from Rand down at Traffic is that "it's going to take a while, because there are several other districts ahead of that one."

His department has verified the signatures on Olsen's petition, and is now awaiting an analysis of the potential effects on parking and traffic in the area. Rand predicts that the proposal will go before the ISCTT sometime this summer.

Long Road for Parking Petitions

The approval process is similar for both proposals. Each proposal must first go before the ISCTT and its representatives from City Planning, Public Health,

Parking and Traffic, Muni, and the Police and Fire departments. If a proposal makes it through this stage, it is then given a public hearing.

After public hearings, proposals then go before the Parking and Traffic Commission. If the commission okays them, they go before the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Both Roddick and Olsen say they are keeping their fingers crossed that their plans will make it to the public hearing stage by next fall.

For more information on parking issues, contact the Department of Parking and Traffic at 554-7275. □

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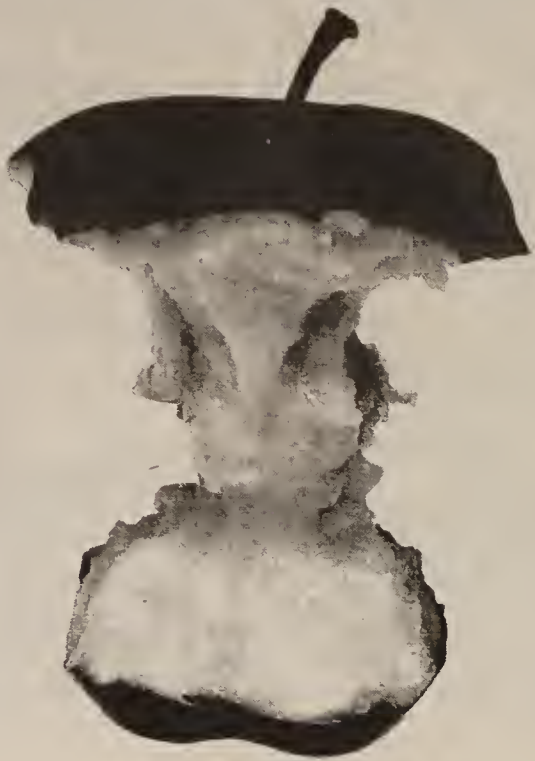
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Shops Thrive On 24th Street

By Loren J. Bialik

Last month, Zephyr Real Estate, the realty office at 4040 24th St., released its fourth annual survey of businesses on 24th Street. It's no surprise that business continues to flourish on Noe Valley's main commercial strip.

"The business climate in Noe Valley remains stable because everyone's doing well," says Zephyr agent Bill Welsh. "There continues to be very little turnover of businesses in Noe Valley, about five percent per year."

Welsh conducted the survey in January 1997. He included all businesses on 24th Street from Chattanooga to Douglass. Shops and stores on the intersecting side streets were also included in the poll.

The survey recorded a total of 170 businesses, including 54 general retail stores (gift and clothing stores), 29 service businesses, and 24 restaurants—the same number as last year. Welsh added a new category this year, "coffee/bagel/juice/deli," in which he listed eight stores in Downtown Noe Valley.

Five businesses called it quits on 24th Street in 1996: the Wine Seller, the Chef, Aquarius Records, Portobello, and the Courtyard Cafe.

Urban Cellars and Auntie Pasta (now called Pastagina) closed briefly, but reopened under new owners.

Three new businesses are trying their luck in Noe Valley. 17 Reasons, a gift store, replaced Aquarius. Savor, a restaurant, succeeded the Courtyard Cafe. And Artemisia, another gift store, took over the Diamond Street corner long-occupied by the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore. (The bookstore moved down 24th Street closer to Castro.)

Commercial space on 24th Street remains at a premium. "We're seeing much more demand for professional office space with very little supply," said Welsh. He added that buyers, particularly those who'd like to open a restaurant or cafe, seem eager to snap up any vacant spot,

What We've Got Here

In January 1997, Zephyr Realty agent Bill Welsh tallied up the businesses along 24th Street from Chattanooga to Douglass. Here's the breakdown of the 170 businesses he found:

| | |
|--|------------|
| General retail stores | 54 |
| Service businesses | 29 |
| Restaurants | 24 |
| Groceries and food stores | 10 |
| Professional offices | 9 |
| Dry cleaners/laundry | 9 |
| Coffee/bagel/juice/delis | 8 |
| Real estate offices | 6 |
| Bars | 5 |
| Florists and plant nurseries | 4 |
| Ice cream and sweet shops | 3 |
| Liquor stores | 3 |
| Banks and mortgage companies | 3 |
| Auto repair and service | 3 |
| TOTAL BUSINESSES | 170 |

despite the current moratorium on food-serving businesses on 24th Street.

Last month there were only two storefronts available for lease. One was the Wine Seller at 4190 24th St., which was undergoing renovations. The other opening was a shop in the Noe Valley Mall, where Portobello was. Welsh said a merchant could expect to pay \$1.50 to \$3 per square foot per month, depending on the location of the space.

Tenants Near Bell Still a Mystery

Meanwhile, mum's the word regarding new commercial tenants in the condo/retail development going up next to Bell Market (at the former site of the Second Spanish Baptist Church).

Developer Joe Cassidy, of Cassidy Construction Inc., was not returning calls to the *Noe Valley Voice* last month. But according to original plans, the four-story complex will have 19 residential units and four stores facing 24th Street.

The project is expected to be completed this summer. □

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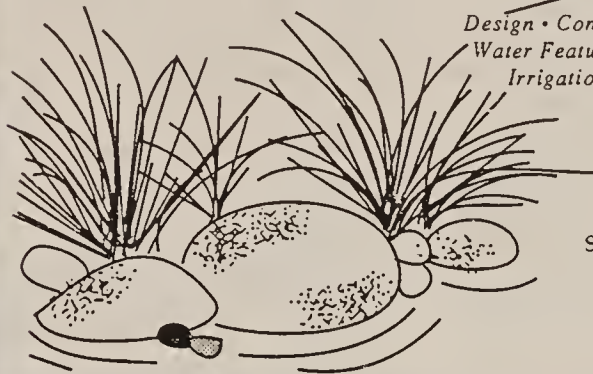
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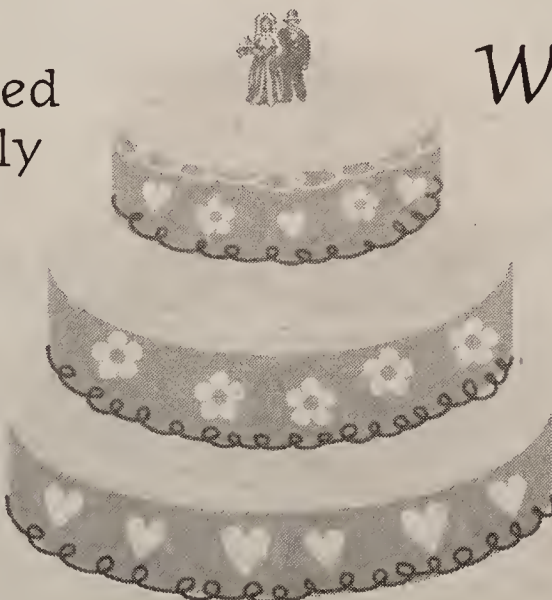
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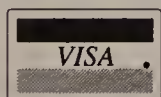


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ATM

Fast Passes— Now You See Them, Now You Don't

By KarenTopakian

A \$35 Fast Pass will get you a month of free rides on the city's buses and street-cars. The ticket is also good for unlimited travel on the cable cars and BART within San Francisco. But just try to buy one in Noe Valley.

Though almost any store or business can sell the passes, only one business on 24th Street actually does: Coast Federal Savings at 24th and Noe. The three other outlets in Noe Valley—Sun Valley Dairy, Veterans' Liquors, and the 30th Street Senior Center—are all along Church Street, past 28th Street.

Coast Federal's hours are 9 to 4 Monday through Thursday, 9 to 6 on Friday, and 10 to 3 on Saturday. "We are usually sold out of the Fast Passes by the fourth or fifth day of the month," reports teller Jean Sin.

This means many J-Church riders have to scramble to buy the tickets. "I tried to buy one around my house, but I didn't see any places, so I paid a dollar and went over the hill and bought it in the Castro," said Damian Carmichael, who lives on Cesar Chavez Street.

Rider Lynn Simpson is frustrated, too. "I can't find a store that sells it. I tried at Bell Market. I tried at the liquor stores on 24th Street. I didn't buy one this month," she said. "I have even given money to a friend to buy one for me elsewhere."

Clipper Street resident Dorothy Wright, who's 73, adds, "I try to buy it at Coast Federal Bank, but one time they ran out."

Thrifty Jr. drugstore at 4045 24th St. sold them until a year and a half ago. "The decision [to stop] was made by the store manager at the time, who decided it required a full-time person and there wasn't enough staff," says Sarah Datz, a spokesperson for Thrifty Pay Less Stores.

Current Thrifty manager Dave Bianchi is now checking to see if the store can reinstate the program.

Asked whether he had considered becoming a vendor, David Eiland of Just for Fun gift and stationery store said, "No one has ever approached us to sell them—not that there would be any opposition to it." Meanwhile, he's seen an increase in customer requests for Fast Passes over the past two years.

Eiland is among many merchants who assume Noe Valley has plenty of outlets or that Muni will contact them if the neighborhood needs more.

But according to Muni, it's up to the merchants which stores sell the passes. The city doesn't actively solicit vendors. "Folks call us and then go through the process of applying," explains Mary Travis-Allen, supervisor of the Muni Fast Pass office.

In the future, she says, Muni may need to do a marketing push in the neighborhoods, describing the service and asking if new businesses want to participate.

Right now merchants need three things to become a vendor: a year's business experience, a good credit rating, and a completed Muni Pass vendor application. In addition to the \$35 adult pass, vendors sell \$8 discount passes for students, seniors, and the disabled.

Martha Sainz, branch manager at Coast Federal Savings, admits that selling the Fast Passes creates a temporary crunch at the bank. "The teller lines can grow longer [the first few days of the month]. However, 70 percent of the buyers are customers of the bank," she points out.

And there's a large payback in goodwill and customer loyalty.

For this reason Shawki "Chuck" Rafidi, of Sun Valley Dairy on Church near 28th Street, started offering the passes about two years ago. "People were asking for them, and I didn't think anybody near me was selling them."

He's happy with the decision: "It brings in a little bit of traffic." Sun Valley stays open until 11 p.m. (midnight on Fridays and Saturdays).

The merchants also get a 25-cent commission on each Fast Pass sold.

According to Valorie Villela of 30th Street Senior Services, the \$40 to \$50 a month the center collects goes directly into a senior activities fund, providing extra money for programs and events.

The senior center sells passes from Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and is located at 225 30th St. near Dolores.

Fast Passes are also on sale at Veterans' Liquors, 1710 Church St. at 29th Street.

For more information about becoming a Muni Fast Pass vendor, call Mary Travis-Allen at 923-6050.

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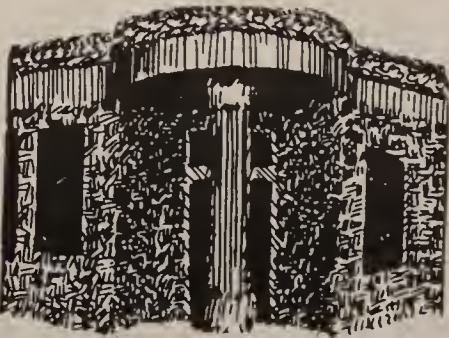
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The Peaks Bar, on Castro near 24th, does indeed exist. In fact, it's Downtown Noe Valley's longest-running tavern. Photo by Najib Joe Hokim.

Photo Missing After Blizzard of Late-Night Activity

In a strange layout misread by the *Voice* graphics crew, the photo "Snowy Day in Glen Canyon" was substituted for a photo of the Peaks bar on page 21 of the March 1997 issue. The correct photo, which was to accompany the story headlined, "Bar Trek: A Trip Through Five Noe Valley Bars," is printed above.

"I apologize to all those who were expecting to view the Peaks photo," said *Voice* night shift foreperson (and co-publisher) Jack Tipple. "We were all fatigued, and allowed ourselves to rush through the final proofing in order to finish before last call. And we were really thirsty, too."

The error was the first of its kind for the *Voice*, which has managed to have captions appear with photos that match for over 20 years.

Bar Trek: A Trip Through Five Noe Valley Bars

By Douglas A. Konecny

In Downtown Noe Valley there are five bars within a three-block stretch of 24th Street. They are all fun and all different. But exactly how different are they? To find out, this reporter dedicated an entire weekday (and two weeks!) to barhopping on 24th Street from Castro to Church.

Since pubs are tough, this wasn't one of them. However, due to lack of space and time, we were unable to check out all the neighborhood watering holes. Tom Piz, Jack's Tap, O'Connell's, and others off the beaten track will have to be covered in our sequel: Bar Trek: The Next Generation.

Go Back in Time at the Peaks

Walk into the Peaks at 1316 Castro between 24th and Jersey on a weekday afternoon, and all you see are men in dark clothing hunched over the bar, a bright light over the pool table, and a blue box.

The Peaks, on Castro near 24th, has Frank Sinatra on the jukebox and patrons who've hung their hats at the bar since the 1940s. Photo by Najib Joe Hokim.

Music on the juke. Other evenings Tony Bennett mingles with the melancholy people who've left their hearts in San Francisco.

One recent Monday afternoon, regular John Foley was sitting in the corner under his own photograph (taken at a St. Patrick's Day wedding at the Peaks) when the music suddenly struck. Foley slowly walked to the center of the room, still holding Kelly to "one off the blues" jukebox." Kelly danced the light and turned.

his afternoon customer Mike, who works at Streetlight Records, both agree that the Rat and Raven's jukebox is the best on the street. It's hard to disagree. In the course of half an hour, turning an incredible Belgian Martini Sazerette into a beer, we hear Tom Petty, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Mongo Santamaría, Albert Collins, and the Jolly Brothers.

Happy hour happens here weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m. As night the jukebox blares and the place is packed with newcomers from all over the city. The pool table in the back is always crowded, as are the poolside smokers.

If it's a Sunday night at 8 p.m., the Simpsons are on the big-screen TV, and everybody is required to keep quiet out of respect for Homer and Marge. If you're looking for action, right next to the Rolling Stones, and Johnny Cash, the Rat and Raven is the place for you.

The Ravens is a Football Team

Anne Devlin, the bartender at the Ravens bar, a few doors down from the Rat and Raven at 4129 24th, calls the Ravens "the people's bar." She doesn't mean "Man The Long is preserved on the juke with the pickled eggs, she means "you can come in here any time with five bucks in your pocket, and spend the evening talking to nice people." Or you can play video trivia while nursing an import Bass ale.

Did Someone Spill the White-Out? So far, the complaints have only come from editors, but a drastic error was plainly in evidence on the page shown below.

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DINING UPDATES

Still No Place Like Homey Little Italy

BY MICHAEL BAUER
Chronicle Food Editor

When you look at the stylish new restaurants that have come to Noe Valley in the past few years — Firefly, Bacco and Savor, to name a few — Little Italy looks like ancient history.

The checked tablecloths are threadbare and faded. The cramped interior (with its pine paneling and lots of objects on the walls) and the partly open kitchen lend the place a homey, cluttered look.

It's the antithesis of trendy, but the fare is soul-satisfying — spaghetti with meat sauce (\$8.50) that packs a wallop of spice; carbonara (\$8.95) with a rich cream sauce; chicken cacciatore, smothered in tomato sauce (\$11.75).

The menu is two pages long, but the 25 specials, highlighted in red, offer some of the best eating; a garlicky artichoke (\$6.95) smothered in breadcrumbs, cheese and bits of ham, for instance.

Consistently one of the brightest dishes is the sea bass (\$13.75), in which the silken-textured fish is bathed in a spicy tomato sauce. Order it with the spaghetti so there's something to soak up the delectable sauce.

However, another staple, chicken with garlic and vinegar (\$10.95), offered too much of a good thing. The whiff of vinegar was so pungent it caused us to choke, so strong, in fact, that it overpowered the quarter-cup of diced garlic that topped the meat.

If you don't like garlic, Little Italy is not for you; it's used like salt, sprinkled liberally on just about every dish.

To clear the palate, try the zabaglione with fruit (\$4.95). It's so frothy that the Marsala-laced egg

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mixture spills over the side of the metal sundae glass and pools on the bottom of the plate.

If this rustic food isn't comfort enough, then the staff certainly is, once you're past the cool and inefficient host, who left us standing for several minutes while he answered the phone, brushed off his reservation book and looked perplexed as to where to seat us in a half-empty room. When we quickly downed our first glass of water, the waiter brought a pitcher. "Those glasses are so small I thought you might need this," he said, leaving it on the table.

When we finished just half of our pasta for appetizer — they won't split orders — and asked to take the rest home, the waiter came back and said, "I took the liberty of adding some more pasta; it was mostly sauce."

We ended up wondering why we had waited so long to go back to this restaurant, where the food and service truly comfort the weary diner.

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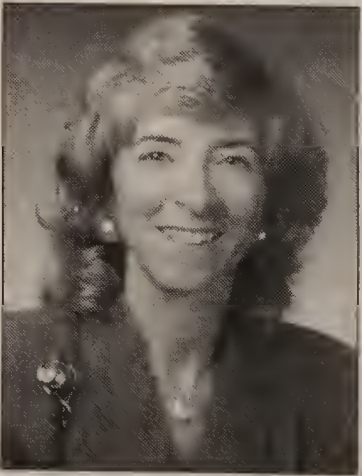
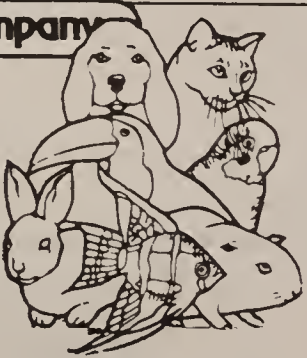
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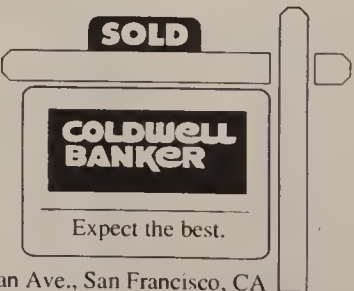


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| 6. <i>Linguine Margherita Fresh Tomato, Basic, Garlic, Crushed Red Pepper and chunks of White Mozzarella Cheese—Lite Red Sauce</i> | | |
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| 8. <i>Linguine Puttanesca Black Olives, Capers, Anchovies, Garlic in Red Pesto Sauce</i> | | |

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City Planning Tries to Clean Up Its Act

By Steve Steinberg

Should residents help decide what kind of shops and stores belong on 24th Street? In the eyes of City Planning, the answer is a tentative yes. So last month the San Francisco Planning Commission approved several proposals that will more fully involve city residents in the makeup of neighborhood shopping districts.

The proposals, which were put together by the Planning Department, ask department staffers to work directly with neighborhood groups in determining what type of new businesses are suitable for their communities.

They also appear to acknowledge opposition to chain stores, which some have accused of driving out small local businesses. Under the new guidelines, chains would be urged to meet with neighborhood groups to discuss the residents' concerns before applying for permits.

Additionally, the Planning Department promised to better train its staffers to make sure they fully understand the provisions of the Neighborhood Commercial Design Guidelines (NCD), which are already on the books.

Planning Department spokesperson Mary Gallagher said such staff familiarity was essential for assessing whether a new commercial project was out of scale with the neighborhood.

In the past, Planning and other city departments have been accused of ignoring the NCD guidelines and issuing permits to businesses that either clashed with neighborhood character or were actually prohibited by law.

Twenty-fourth Street, for instance, is a Neighborhood Commercial District with specific limits on bars and restaurants. For the past year, the street has also been operating under a moratorium on new coffee stores and takeouts.

The approval of the Planning Department's proposals on March 13 came two weeks after the commission had voted down several other measures offered by members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

One proposal, sponsored by former supervisor and now state Assemblyman Kevin Shelley, would have created 16 neighborhood commercial advisory councils, empowered to make recommendations to the Planning Commission on permit applications.

That proposal was opposed by both merchant and neighborhood groups.

"I wasn't expecting to see such an outpouring of negativity toward the proposal as was expressed," said Diane Barrett, owner of Indigo V flower shop on Castro Street. Barrett had represented the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association at City Hall on Feb. 27.

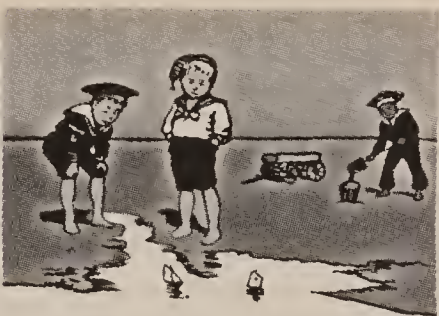
Barrett said people felt the council idea would "add one more bureaucratic stumbling block to opening a business." The measure also appeared to give the councils arbitrary veto power over new businesses, Barrett said.

Also rejected by the commission were two measures designed to give citizens time to voice an opinion on new permit applications. One proposal, also sponsored by Shelley, would have required applicants to inform the public at least 15 days prior to filing for a business permit.

Another measure, sponsored by Supervisor Sue Bierman, would have required a new business to give notice to nearby residents and groups within 30 days of applying for a permit.

Gallagher said the notice measures were voted down because they came too late in the planning process. "They also sidestepped the real issues, which were to make sure that proposed new business projects fit in with the character of the neighborhoods," she said.

The new Planning Department guidelines approved by the commission will now go before the Board of Supervisors for a vote. □



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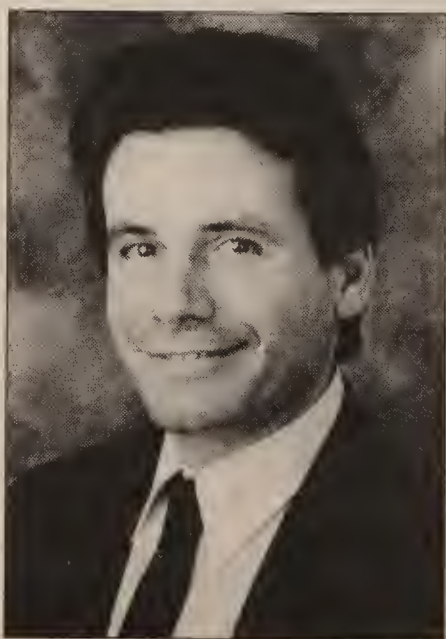
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SHORT TAKES

Seniors Do Poetry and Tai Chi

The Noe Valley Senior Center, which meets at the Noe Valley Ministry, is expanding its weekday lunch program to include exercise, meditation, and fine arts. Center director Hope Moreci, 65, invites neighborhood seniors to drop by two mornings a week for the new activities.

"On Wednesdays, we'll start with meditation and tai chi, or some form of exercise. Then we'll have 10 to 15 minutes of arts and crafts demonstrations. After that maybe we'll talk about current events — it depends on what strikes the mood of the group," she said. Flower arranging was one of the things on last month's agenda.

On Friday mornings, the seniors will hold a fine arts discussion group, which will cover art history, books, and poetry.

After the Wednesday and Friday sessions, which run from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., seniors are welcome to socialize and stay for lunch.

About 30 seniors currently attend the lunch program, served Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Participants donate \$1.50 for the hot meals, provided by the Salvation Army.

Those who'd like to come for lunch should make a reservation by calling 648-1030 before 9:30 a.m. The Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez St.

40-Year High School Reunion

Are you a graduate of George Washington High School? If the answer is yes,

and you graduated in the fall of 1956 or the spring or fall of 1957, you've got a 40-year reunion coming up.

The reunion will be held on Oct. 25, 1997, at the Clarion Hotel in Millbrae, Calif.

Those who have not received a notice of the event are encouraged to write Esther (Schwartz) LaPedis at 126 Santa Paula Drive, Daly City, CA 94015. Or you may call her at 992-2454.

The Future of the De Young

The city invites you to take part in a series of workshops on whether to move or revamp the de Young Museum. The museum is now located in Golden Gate Park near 10th Avenue and Kennedy Drive.

The first meeting, held last month, focused on the planning and space requirements for the de Young, one of the city's premier fine arts museums. The second workshop, scheduled for Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to noon, will explore various places to which the museum might be moved. The meeting will be held in Hearst Court inside the museum.

For further information, call Pamela McDonald, the museum's director of audience development and civic affairs, at 750-7605.

Free Vaccinations

On Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mission Dolores Park, more than 1,500 volunteers will gather to help local health officials give free vaccinations to Mission District children.

According to the sponsoring organization, HOPE for Kids, 25 percent of American children have not received proper immunizations. And in some urban areas, the percentage goes as high as 65 percent.

The event will feature a live band, in-

formation booths, and guest speakers, including Dr. Paul Volberding, director of the AIDS clinic at San Francisco General Hospital. Invited guests include Mayor Willie Brown and several local sports celebrities.

For more information, call Walter Kotkowski or Mary Ellen Ynes at HOPE for Healthy Kids, (408) 446-4959.

Visit a Holocaust Survivor

Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) is currently recruiting community members to visit older adult survivors of the Holocaust.

Volunteers must enjoy working with seniors, be sensitive to individuals' experience in the Holocaust, and be able to commit to four to six hours a month for one year. Training will be provided.

JFCS is also looking for volunteers to drive Holocaust survivors to the communitywide Yom HaShoah Commemoration at Temple Emanu-El on May 4 at 7 p.m. In addition, the group needs volunteers to help seniors living in local nursing homes celebrate Passover.

If you're interested, call Sheryl Groden at 561-1244.

Class on Love and Intimacy

Beginning Monday, April 7, at 6:30 p.m., San Francisco City College will offer a free six-week course exploring love, intimacy, and fantasy in relationships. The class will be held at Everett Middle School, 450 Church St.

Topics will include "fantasy bonding," rediscovering the child within, the family connection, playing out past roles in the present, and building intimate relationships in recovery.

For details call 585-5212.

Children's Art Auction

The Noe Valley Nursery School will hold a gala reception and silent auction of children's art on Friday, April 18, from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

More than 50 kids' paintings, sculptures, and collages will be exhibited at the Ministry's Gallery Sanchez for three weeks prior to the event. Teachers and parents say the auction will showcase the best of what the children have produced over the past year. All paintings will be framed.

Continued Next Page



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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Previous Page

The April 18 reception will feature entertainment and refreshments, including champagne (adults only, of course).

All proceeds will benefit the school, which has been operating as a parent co-op preschool for 25 years. For more information, call the school at 647-2278, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rainbow Shines on Earth Day

The Singing Rainbow, Noe Valley's award-winning youth vocal ensemble, will headline this year's Earth Day celebration in Berkeley on Saturday, April 19.

The event will take place in front of Berkeley City Hall in Martin Luther King Park. The fun begins with a parade at 11 a.m., followed by entertainment starting at noon. The Singing Rainbow, composed of 11 girls ages 6 to 13, will perform between noon and 12:30.

"This is one of the oldest and biggest Earth Day celebrations in the Bay Area," says Singing Rainbow director Candy Forest. "It will be a day full of great family activities celebrating the earth and her creatures."

For information on other Rainbow concerts and choral activities, call Forest at 550-7752.

New Gallery Opens

Artbeat Gallery, located at 3266 21st St. near Valencia and Lexington streets, will be unveiled this month.

The new gallery will showcase contemporary fine arts as well as crafts—ceramics, glassware, wood, handmade paper, textiles—by regional artists. Six to eight exhibits are planned per year.

The gallery also will offer an educational program of literary, musical, and other cultural activities focusing on ritual, stories, symbols, and myths.

Artbeat is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is available across the street.

Artists and craftspersons interested in exhibiting their work should contact the gallery's business manager at 452-1104.

Volunteer at the SPCA

You can become a dog (or cat's) best friend by volunteering at the SPCA. The

organization is particularly scouting for cat socializers, dog walkers, and adoption counselors.

Volunteer orientations will be held this month on Tuesdays, April 1, 15, and 29, from 5 to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays, April 12 and 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. They take place at the SPCA's educational center at 243 Alabama St.

To find out more call 554-3087.

Meanwhile, the SPCA is also circulating petitions objecting to the National Park Service's ban on off-leash dog walking at Ocean Beach.

For information, contact the SPCA Ethical Studies Department at 554-3097. Or e-mail ethicalstudies@sfsPCA.org.

Puff Up a Clean Air Booster

If you know someone who is helping to improve air quality—by ridesharing, switching to nonaerosol products, or floating an idea for better pollution control—now is the time to nominate him or her for a Clean Air Champion Award, sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

Past winners include an electric car enthusiast, a Girl Scout troop, an environmental rap singer, a 72-year-old bicycle commuter, and two university students who developed a clean-air transportation page on the World Wide Web.

Nominations will be accepted April 1 through May 23 (the end of Clean Air Month). All you do is describe in one page how your nominee has helped improve air quality.

To get an official entry form, call 1-800-HELP-AIR. Then send it to Clean Air Champions, BAAQMD, 939 Ellis St., San Francisco, CA 94109, or fax to 749-5101. Include an address and phone number for both you and your nominee.

Winners will be announced in August and can look forward to special recognition from Bay Area media.

Sex Information Course

San Francisco Sex Information (SFSI) announces its twice-annual course on human sexuality beginning April 19. The course covers topics such as sexual anatomy and orientation, pornography and censorship, safer sex and STDs, birth control, and talking to children about sex.

The 55-hour class is open to anyone, from those interested in personal development to sex educators, health care professionals, and counselors.

The registration fee is \$450 (\$195 for those willing to volunteer on SFSI's phone hotline).

Founded in 1972, SFSI is a nonprofit telephone switchboard that provides free nonjudgmental information and referrals about sex and sexuality.

For more information call the switchboard at 989-7374, or visit the SFSI Web site at www.sfsi.org.

Clinic Defenders Needed

The Ad Hoc Committee for Clinic Defense, an organization working to protect women's right to abortion, seeks volunteers to assist clinic clients who are being confronted on Saturday mornings by anti-choice activists.

Those who would like to participate in clinic defense are invited to come to the Pregnancy Consultation Clinic at 1801 Bush St. (corner of Bush and Octavia) from 7:15 to 9:30 a.m. on any Saturday. Training will be provided.

The Ad Hoc Committee for Clinic Defense is located at 1908 Mission St. For further details call 789-8165.

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TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS

Noe Valley Senior Center invites you to participate in our senior lunch program. Our meals come from the Salvation Army. Donation is \$1.50 per lunch.

Please call Mrs. Hope Moreci at 648-1030 before 9 am. Lunch is served at 12:30 pm, Monday through Friday, 1021 Sanchez at 23rd in the Noe Valley Ministry.

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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

The Greening of Aunt Hermione

By Ruhama Veltfort

I was up to my elbows in dishwater, so Aunt Hermione answered the phone. I couldn't help overhearing her—she always raised her voice. And from what she was saying, it sounded as if she was talking to one of those telemarketers.

"No, in that case, we are most definitely *not* interested. No, please don't call again. She is not interested either."

I was bemused. I dried my hands on my apron and came up and put my arm around her tiny frame. "So just what is it that I'm not interested in, Auntie?"

She pursed her lips. "Oh, some young fellow from one of those tree-hugger groups wants us to plant a tree out on the sidewalk."

"But Aunt Hermione!" I protested. "Wait a minute! That's a wonderful program! In fact, I tried to get one started on this block 10 years ago, but I couldn't get enough of our neighbors to go along!"

"Well, of course you couldn't, dear. The very first thing he told me about was a mandatory meeting."

"Mandatory?"

"Yes, indeed. He said we *had* to attend a meeting in order to get a tree. I thought compulsory meetings died with the Gang of Four!"

Her comparing those earnest conservationists with the fanatical leaders of Red China in the '70s gave me a giggle. But I hurriedly looked up the number and called them back. It wasn't the first time I'd apologized for my cantankerous relative.

When I finished getting the information, Aunt Hermione was sitting in the kitchen waiting for a pot of tea to steep.

"Well, I see what you mean, Auntie. I guess it probably would be a lot easier to just buy our own tree at the nursery and hire the woman who gardens for the people next door to plant it. But I know this group, and it's a lot less expensive to do it through them, and they say they'll make sure we get a healthy tree and plant it the right way. Anyway, I guess the point is that we not only make the neighborhood more beautiful, but we get to know our neighbors, too."

"Humph," she sniffed. "I already know plenty of people, including the neighbors. I just don't care to be pushed!"

I was well acquainted with her independence. "I understand, Auntie. I don't like it either. But we'd save enough money to go out for a nice dinner at Bacco or Firefly—you know you'd like that. And besides, the Friends of the Urban Forest will come by and check on how the tree is doing—they'll even prune it after a year."

Aunt Hermione lifted out the tea ball

Aunt Hermione's Red Coleslaw

Ingredients

1 medium head red cabbage, sliced thin
and cut into fine strips
3 green onions, chopped

Dressing

1/2 cup nonfat plain yogurt
1/2 cup regular or reduced-fat
mayonnaise
2 tablespoons rice vinegar (or apple
cider vinegar)
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Mix the cabbage and scallions together in a bowl. Stir the dressing ingredients together until smoothly blended. Let dressing stand for 1/2 hour, then pour over cabbage just before serving.
Serves 8 to 10.

with a spoon and carefully poured two cups of tea. I could tell she still disapproved. I stirred a spoonful of honey into my tea.

"Look, Auntie, I'll go to the meeting, and you don't have to do anything unless you want to. But I wish you'd think about coming along for the planting. And I think there's some kind of potluck afterwards."



A month later, I went to the meeting and picked out a tree. I also signed up to make a few phone calls and bring a salad to the post-planting potluck. Aunt Hermione was waiting for me when I got home.

"Well, Auntie, it's all set. We'll be planting the trees two weeks from this Saturday," I sighed as I sunk into the easy chair. "It's a lot of work, and you're certainly welcome to help." I glanced at her birdlike physique. "I'm not asking you to do anything heavy, but maybe you could make something for the potluck—maybe you'd be willing to make your delicious coleslaw."

She was silent for a moment. Then she showed a hint of a smile. "May I know what kind of tree we're planting?"

I got up and hugged her. "Thanks, Auntie. It's called a red hopseed, and it has the most beautiful long red leaves."



A few weeks later, we were up bright and early to meet our neighbors. The Friends of the Urban Forest divided us into teams to plant the several trees on our block.

Aunt Hermione actually picked up a shovel, but we had plenty of people to help without her straining herself. She—and the coleslaw—were the hit of the potluck, too.

But as we walked up to our house, she looked critically at our new tree. "Honestly, dear," she said, "I don't think much of that red hophead, or whatever it's called. It looks like a big weed to me."

"Hopseed, Aunt Hermione," I corrected her. "And it will grow into a beautiful tree. Look at the color of those leaves! It almost matches the red cabbage you used in the coleslaw!" □

Psychotherapy...

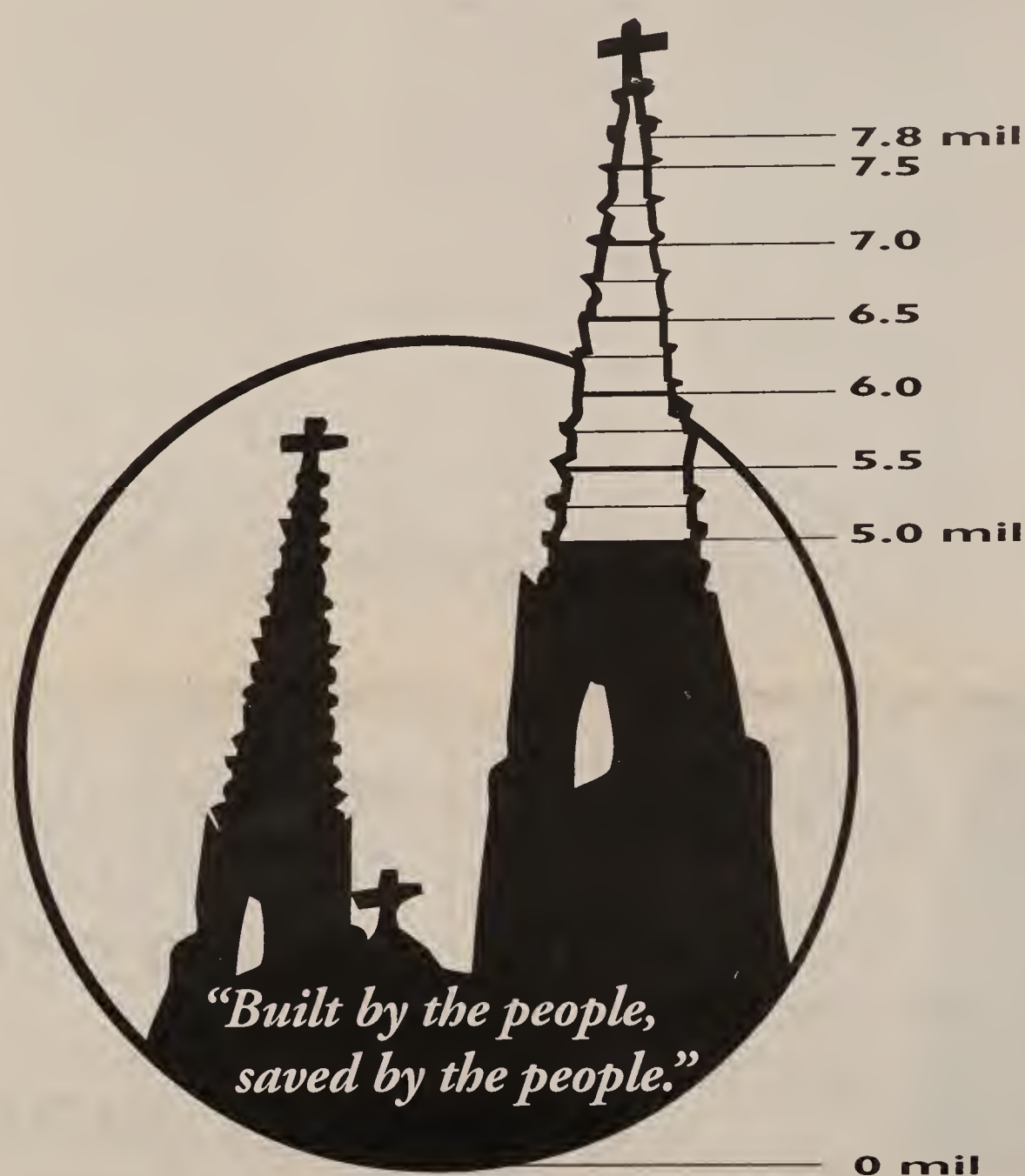
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APRIL

NOW: The SPCA will spay or neuter your CAT free of charge. 2500 16th St. Call 554-3084 for appointment.

APRIL 1, 8, 22 & 29: The Noe Valley Library offers a STORY TIME for pre-schoolers 3-5. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

APRIL 1, 12, 15, 26 & 29: The SPCA holds VOLUNTEER orientation for dog walkers, cat socializers, and adoption counselors. Tues., 5-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-noon. 2500 16th St. 554-3087.

APRIL 1-30: Irish PAINTER Emerald O'Leary exhibits "Simple Art for Complicated People" at the Castro Country Club and Community Center. 11 am-10 pm. 4058 18th St. 252-0165.

APRIL 2: The S.F. MYSTERY Bookstore presents Anne Perry signing her Victorian crime novel *Ashworth Hall*. 12:30 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

APRIL 2: Project Inform offers an introductory TOWN MEETING on HIV treatment options. 6:30-8 pm. 1965 Market St., Suite 220. 558-8669.

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: The Noe Valley Library's ongoing LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents begins 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: The Bernal Heights Library offers a YOGA group at 7 pm and the SCRABBLE gang at 7:30 pm. 500 Cortland St. 695-5160.

APRIL 3: S.F. State's POETRY Center presents Cheryl Clarke reading from her work. 4:30 pm. New Humanities Building, Room 512. 338-2227.

APRIL 3-24: The Main Library shows large-screen LAUREL & HARDY videos, Thursdays at noon. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4595.

APRIL 4, 11, 18 & 25: 30th Street Senior Services offers instruction in Latin and BALLROOM DANCING. 2-3:30 pm. 225 30th St., Room 325. For info call Jorge Santis at 550-2221.

APRIL 5: A PUBLIC MEETING regarding the future of the de Young Museum will be held 9 am-noon. Hearst Court in the Museum, Golden Gate Park.

APRIL 5: Pediatric experts discuss CHILD IMMUNIZATION at a panel cosponsored by Natural Resources and the Homebirth Collective. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

APRIL 5: Nancy Gee leads a class, "The ABCs of Mutual Fund INVESTING." 2-5 pm. Harvey Milk Institute, 584-B Castro St. 552-7200.

APRIL 5: Natural Resources sponsors a class in Infant and CHILD CPR. 2-6 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

APRIL 5: Organist Christopher Putnam performs a CONCERT of works by Bach at 5 pm, followed by a 6 pm. worship service. St. John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St. 861-1436.

APRIL 5: The INA CHALIS OPERA Ensemble performs "Just You and I," a concert of duets and love songs. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

APRIL 5: Guitarists Duck Baker and Dale Miller perform in CONCERT at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

APRIL 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Randall Museum gives an 11 am "Meet the Animals" talk followed by a noon ANIMAL feeding. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

APRIL 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Ad Hoc Committee for CLINIC DEFENSE needs volunteers to keep free access to abortion. Meet at the Pregnancy Consultation Clinic, 1801 Bush St., 7:15 am; training provided. 789-8165.

APRIL 5 & 27: The S.F. League of Urban Gardeners, SLUG, offers COMPOSTING classes at the Garden for the Environment. Sat. 10 am-noon; Sun. 2-4 pm. Lawton & 7th Ave. 285-7585.

APRIL 6: Interior designer Paul Duchscherer discusses his new book, *The BUNGALOW*. 1 pm. Books Inc. 2275 Market St. 864-6777.

APRIL 6: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents "From the Inside Out," a discussion/performance by the Artaria Quartet with guest fortepianist John Khouri. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

APRIL 6: Community Music Center hosts a CONCERT celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of pianist LEV SHORR. 4 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

APRIL 7 & 21: The LIFEPLAN Center offers a free orientation for people over 50 making changes in their work and personal lives. 6-7 pm. Hearst Building, 5 Third St., Suite 324. 546-4499.

APRIL 7-27: Kent Tool and Patrick Faverie exhibit POTTERY in traditional, contemporary, and arts & crafts styles. Reception April 9, 5-8 pm. Ruby's Clay Studio, 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

APRIL 8: The ARTHRITIS Foundation sponsors an eight-week exercise class. Tuesdays, 4:45-5:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-1831.

APRIL 9: LINDA BARNES signs the seventh Carlotta Carlyle caper, *Cold Case*. 4:30-5:30 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

APRIL 9: The Noe Valley Democratic Club sponsors "The Great Stadium Debate," between friends and foes of the 49ers STADIUM plan. Also, debate and discussion on other bond initiatives. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 821-4087.

APRIL 10: The monthly meeting of RADICAL WOMEN features a report and video on women in Cuba. 7 pm. Centro del Pueblo, 474 Valencia St. 864-1278.

APRIL 10: The Fullerton GUITAR Ensemble performs a concert at City College. 7 pm. Conlan Hall, Room 101. 239-3580.

APRIL 10-16: Arthur Dong's award-winning DOCUMENTARY FILM *Licensed to Kill* examines hate crimes against gay men. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St. 621-6120 for showtimes.

APRIL 11: The California Institute of Integral Studies hosts a LECTURE by physics professor Amit Goswami, "The Self-Aware Universe." 7-9 pm. 9 Peter Yorke Way. 674-5500.

APRIL 11-13: The male vocal ensemble CHANTICLEER performs works "In a New Light: Creating Music for Today." Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro St. 392-4400.

APRIL 11 & 18: Natural Resources offers a CHILDBIRTH Refresher class, for those who've had one baby but need to brush up on their labor skills. 7-9 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

APRIL 12: The Main Library hosts a DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*. 1 pm. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4595.

APRIL 12: Learn to make African NECK WALLETs in a class led by Kaya Fortune. 1 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

APRIL 12: Textile artist Amatchi discusses the history of QUILTING at the Glen Park Library. 2 pm. 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

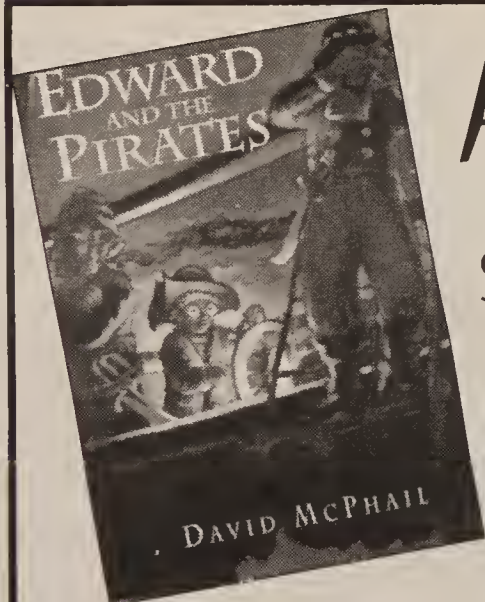
APRIL 13: The second annual DOG-GONE FUN RUN in Golden Gate Park benefits PAWS, providing support for people with AIDS and their pets. 8-10 am. Call 241-1463 to register.

APRIL 13: The San Francisco ROSE SOCIETY'S meeting features a talk by Edward Yesan, "Grin and Groom It." 1 pm. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. & Lincoln. 436-0497.

APRIL 13: POETS John High and Harry Polkinhorn read at Keane's 3300 Club. 2 pm. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

APRIL 13: The Nagano-Reiss-Hersh PIANO TRIO performs works by Shostakovich, Kodaly, Schubert, and Schumann at the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

APRIL 13: The Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.



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 Irwin Memorial Blood Centers





CALENDAR

APRIL 14-18: S.F. Clean City Foundation declares this "One NEAT CITY WEEK." Call 553-2913 to help clean.

APRIL 15: FILMS for preschoolers will be on screen at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

APRIL 15: Senior adults (over 55) are invited to the Rec & Park Department's fifth annual citywide BRIDGE TOURNAMENT and lunch. For information and registration form, call 666-7205.

APRIL 15: TECHNOCRACY Inc. presents a talk by sociologist Roland Miller, "Doorway to the Future." S.F. State University, Science Building, Room 256. 771-9994.

APRIL 16 & 30: DOUGLAS DOWD traces socioeconomic history in *Blues for America*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

APRIL 16-MAY 21: Natural Resources invites women to join a six-week PREGNANCY support group. Wednesdays, 7-9 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

APRIL 17: The S.F. GREEN Community hosts a report on the environmental situation in Cuba by Global Exchange's Pam Montanaro. 7 pm. New College, 766 Valencia St. 339-8140.

APRIL 17-20: The Lawrence Pech DANCE Company performs three world premieres at Theater Artaud. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

APRIL 17-26: Dancers' Group presents a local CHOREOGRAPHERS' showcase of dance performance. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

APRIL 18: Modern Times Bookstore hosts Open MIC - Optional Readings at 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

APRIL 18: Lick Wilmerding High School presents a Spring Gala JAZZ CONCERT at 7:30 pm. Ehrer Theater, 755 Ocean Ave. 333-4021.

APRIL 18: The Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School's benefit reception and SILENT AUCTION of children's art features pieces on display from April 1 in Gallery Sanchez. 8-11 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2278.

APRIL 19: Join a SPRING CLEANUP at and around James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St. For info, call Peter Govarchin at 452-8822.

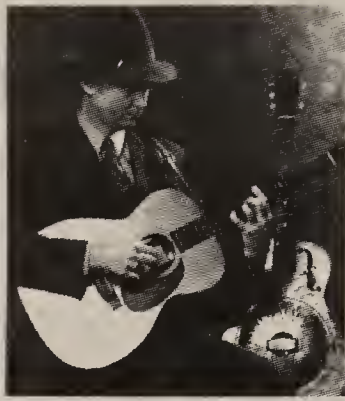
APRIL 19: The SINGING RAINBOW performs at the Berkeley Earth Day Celebration at noon, in front of the Berkeley City Hall in Martin Luther King Park.

APRIL 19: The S.F. Mystery Bookstore hosts a BOOK SIGNING by G. M. Ford, author of *The Burns Rush*. 2-3 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

APRIL 19: The Glen Park Library hosts an OPEN HOUSE to celebrate National Library Week. 2-4 pm. 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

APRIL 19: The CARTOON ART Museum presents a book signing by Brian Biggs, author/artist of *Dear Julia*. 2-4 pm. 814 Mission St. 227-8666.

APRIL 19: The Noe Valley Music Series hosts an evening of duos with Tom Darter and Larry Kasson, and DARVISH, with Moses Sedler and Victor Spiegel. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



Dale Miller, of the Noe Valley Music store on 24th Street, will pick and slide with guitarist Duck Baker in a concert at the Noe Valley Ministry April 5.

APRIL 20: Jaqueline Girdner signs her new Kate Jasper novel, *A Cry for Self Help*, and Sarah Andrews returns with her third geologist/sleuth Em Hansen mystery, *Mother Nature*. 2-3 pm. The S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

APRIL 20: Community Music Center's JAZZ BAND and the Hoover School jazz band perform at 3 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

APRIL 21: The LYRID METEOR SHOWER is at its peak; look for 15 shooting stars per hour!

APRIL 21: Carol Queen discusses her BOOK, *Real Live Nude Girl: Chronicles of Sex-Positive Culture*. 8-10 pm. Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St. 974-8980.

APRIL 23: The Glen Park Library offers a RECYCLED ART workshop for middle schoolers. 4 pm. 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

APRIL 24: Dr. Vincent Resh discusses AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES in Bay Area ecosystems. 7:30 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

APRIL 24: The San Francisco HISTORY Association presents a discussion of the city's 1906 earthquake shacks. 7:30 pm. The Cannery, third floor, 2801 Leavenworth St. 750-9986.

APRIL 24-26: The KRONOS QUARTET performs world premieres by Ortiz, Phan, and LeBaron. 8 pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

APRIL 26: The Randall Museum's FESTIVAL on the Hill offers activities, food, and fun for all ages. 11 am-3 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

APRIL 26: The San Francisco KLEZMER Experience performs at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

APRIL 27: Community Music Center students and staff perform a "Pursuit of Excellence" CONCERT at the Noe Valley Ministry. 2:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 647-6015.

APRIL 29: Authors Susan Ferriss and Ricardo Sandoval discuss *The Fight in the Fields: CESAR CHAVEZ and the Farmworkers Movement*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

APRIL 30: The Adventist HEALTHVAN offers cholesterol and blood pressure screening at Bell Market. 10 am-4 pm. 775-2570.

Calendar Deadline

The *Voice* Calendar is a free neighborhood bulletin board. To submit an item for the next issue, mail your notice to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114, by **April 15**. (Or you can send e-mail via jaxvoice@aol.com.)

The next issue of the *Voice* will hit the streets on Wednesday, April 30, and will include listings for the month of May.

Calendar questions or last-minute changes should be directed to Karol at 285-6347. Note that we'll publish as many items as we can, but that Noe Valley events get priority. Thanks for your help. □



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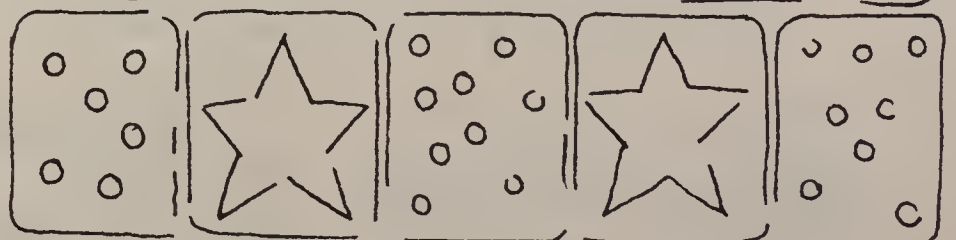
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HOUSE STORY

A Humble Victorian Seen in a New Light

By Tim Kelley

"They'll carry me out of here feet first," says Bob Emery from the orchid-filled living room of his house at 408 Vicksburg St. near Jersey.

Emery, a retired credit manager who works part-time at Tuggey's Hardware on 24th Street, will not need a stretcher any time soon. But he is dead certain he'll spend the rest of his life in his snug gable-front house—an early Noe Valley worker's dwelling.

A Southern California transplant, Emery has already spent 32 years in the house. When he bought it for \$24,000 in 1965, "I only intended to keep it two or three years," he says. But both house and neighborhood gradually worked their charms on him. Although he is hard put to say what he loves most about the place, he knows it has to do with history and continuity—things that never entered his mind when he was growing up in Pomona.

"When I first came to the city," Emery recalls, "I thought—why don't they tear down these old buildings and put up new ones?" But there came a day when during a visit to a friend's Victorian on Steiner Street, he looked up at the ceiling and was struck by the beauty of an antique gas chandelier. From then on, he began to see old furniture, fixtures, and buildings in a different light. They were not just obsolete discards. They were emblems of a different time, a different sensibility.

Emery started haunting antique auctions, dusting off mirrors and tables and chairs. He began noticing the finer distinctions among bay windows and finials.

Slowly he came to see his house as an intriguing time capsule. He knew that it sat below the grade of the street, and that it was built with old-fashioned square nails—two indications of age. But exactly how old was 408 Vicksburg, and who had lived in it before?



The truth reveals that Emery's 30-year devotion to the place is the merest preface compared to the saga of former owner George W. Groves. Groves had set a standard Emery couldn't possibly match: he had not only been carried out of the house feet first, he had entered it head first. Born in the house in December 1877, Groves still owned it when he died 84 years later.

Young George was the son of John and Kate Groves, who bought the place when they were first married. They paid \$1,400 for the 1½-story cottage on July 20, 1876. This was a fairly high price for the time, and the house probably lost value within two or three years, when the silver-mining boom collapsed. But the Groves were long-term investors, untroubled by market fluctuations.

John Groves, an English immigrant, worked as a rigger. He was 38 years old when he and Kate moved into their 600-square-foot house, one of only three on the block. Kate Groves was 24, a New York native. The Groves family boarded three orphaned children, and eventually had four of their own. George was the oldest of their offspring.

Few modern parents would contem-



An homage to the past—a gas-flame chandelier—glows in Noe Valley resident Bob Emery's living room. Photos by Beverly Thorp

plate raising seven children in a place that Bob Emery describes accurately as a "nice little house," with equal emphasis on both adjectives. Then again, few modern parents would contemplate raising that many children anywhere, even in Noe Valley, where baby carriage congestion often approaches gridlock.

Over the years, the house expanded to meet growing family needs. Several additions can be traced on old fire maps—first a little bulge out to the side, then, around the turn of the century, a major addition at the rear.

There are two flats here today, but the division into rental units didn't come until the 1930s, when all the Groves children were grown. An external stairway leads to the upstairs flat. Other than that, the appearance from the street has hardly been altered.

George Groves, who became a long-shoreman, inherited the house from his mother in 1915. His two brothers had moved out of the family homestead, but the youngest sibling, his sister Gertrude, shared the house with him. Gertrude's husband, Henry Scheihing, and their daughter Florence also lived there.

In 1926, George deeded the property to Gertrude and moved out. The Scheihings had the place to themselves for a while, before moving to Potrero Hill, where Henry Scheihing worked as a brewer.

Gertrude Scheihing owned the house for the next 23 years. Although she never lived in it again, brother George lived there off and on during that time. He evidently was a bit of a wanderer at this stage in his life, but the house where he was born was always home. In 1949 it was deeded back to him, and he kept it until his death in 1961.

With the passing of the Groves era, as with the end of any long-term relationship, the house seemed not to know what to do next. In the following four years, it had several different owners, all of them absentees—none of them ready for commitment.

Then along came Bob Emery, just like the others at first, until that gas chandelier lit up over his head like a cartoon light bulb.

In the past three decades Emery has done a lot of modernizing work, including rewiring the whole house. He has also installed his own antique gas chandelier in the living room, connected to supply piping still in place since the Groves era. In its hissing yellow light, he can easily see back 120 years. □

Tim Kelley is a house historian. You are welcome to give him a call at 337-5824.



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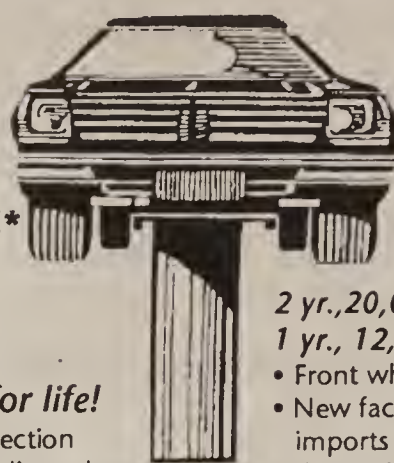
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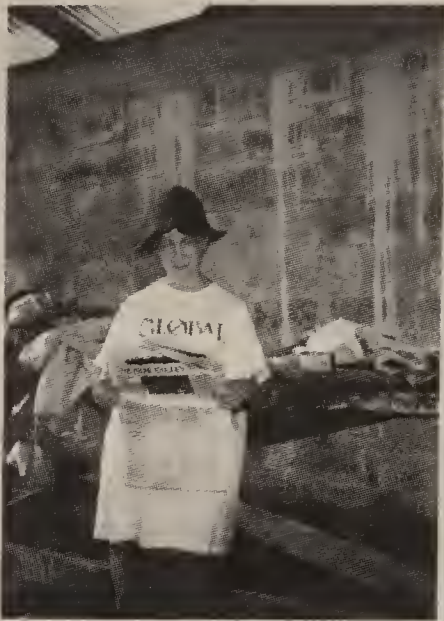
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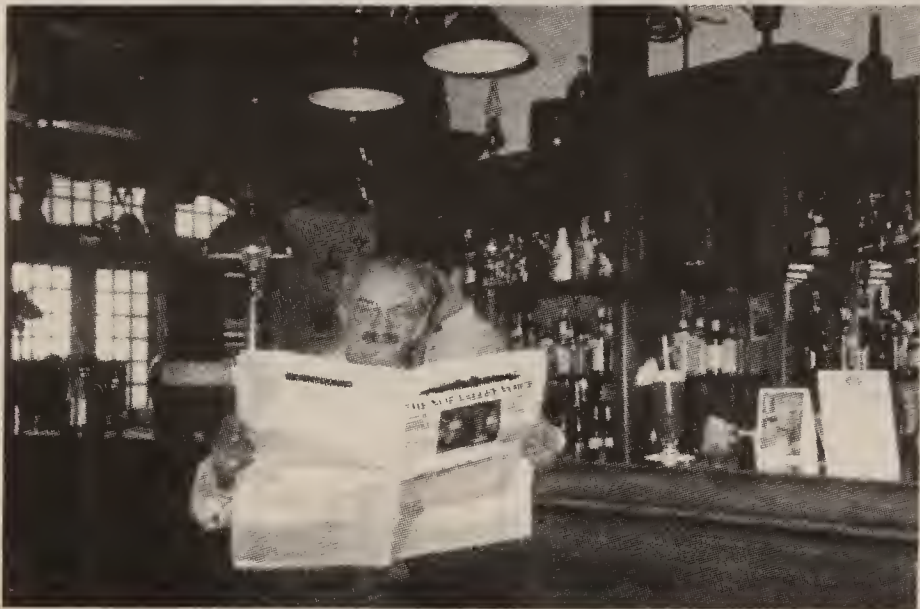
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Around the Realms The Rested Readers Roamed

We begin this issue's round up of traveling Noe Valleons with two repeat performers. Henry Karnilowicz and Micki Ryan have both appeared in these pages before—Henry while in India and Micki in Peru. And they've both strayed to similar parts of the world this trip.



Clipper Street resident Micki Ryan spent time in the Costa Rica rain forest with Global Volunteers, a "human and economic development organization." Here she checks her hometown paper to see how things are developing in far-off Noe Valley.



Singapore agrees with Henry Karnilowicz. He reports that he's visited there a number of times going back to 1969. "The above photograph is of me sitting at the Long Bar of the legendary Raffles Hotel, the birthplace of that exotic cocktail the 'Singapore Sling.'" Sounds like the perfect place to muse over the latest gossip from Noe Valley.



Noe Street residents William "Metz" Metzler and Barbara Bedell took a trip to Vietnam early this year. In Ho Chi Minh City, they chose the guillotine at the War Crimes Museum as the background for a snapshot of Barbara reading the Voice. Their trip was not a gloomy one, though. They enjoyed it so much, they're returning next December.



Gina Wood and Emily Giometti took their copy of the Voice to the crown of the Statue of Liberty on St. Patrick's Day. The temperature there was a nippy 18 degrees, and the newsprint was welcome insulation.

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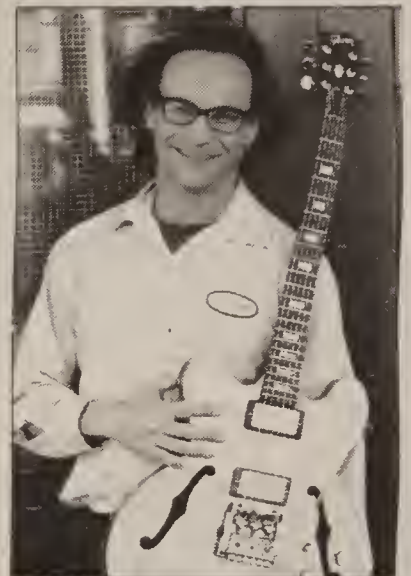
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A Wary Feline watches from the safety of a gated stairway. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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by Florence Holub

Fragments of the '06 Earthquake

Every April my thoughts turn to the Great Earthquake and Fire, which rudely shook San Francisco awake at 5:12 a.m. on April 18, 1906. I try to imagine how the people of this fair city rose above the disaster.

I have no firsthand knowledge of the earthquake, because my family didn't move here until 19 years later when I was 5. By then, everything seemed to be in apple-pie order.

We stayed for a short time on 23rd Street, between Chattanooga and Church, with the Haglunds, friends and members of the Swede-Finn colony in Noe Valley. Each day my mother went out to search for living quarters large enough to accommodate our family of five. While she was gone, I often stood at the front window studying the interesting manor across the street. It seemed grand compared to our farmhouse in Idaho. It was bigger than our barn!

I developed a fondness for that house, and as an adult I often returned to sketch it. One day an old school friend, Esther Koch, happened by as I sketched, and told me that her uncle lived in the house. She asked me to do a painting for him, and later she requested that I do another for her mother, who had grown up there.

I saw Esther again not too long ago, and she told me regretfully that both her uncle and mother had died. And alas, the paintings she had commissioned had been carried off by other members of the family. Thinking that Esther deserved one of her own, I did another painting for her (but this one was "on the house"!).

That wooden house at 3784 23rd St., Esther told me, had withstood the 1906 Earthquake, but the fireplace had broken apart. Fortunately, the bricks fell out into the garden and not into the parlor where the family had gathered.

I wondered what the kids thought of this huge upheaval. In the '20s, the occasional tremors my two brothers and I felt were a novel experience for us Idaho natives, but as children we did not feel fear, perhaps due to the conditioning of our father. Whenever there was a jolt in the night, he would call out gleefully, "Wasn't that fun!" Generally



it was, and the hint of danger made things even more exciting.

Sometimes the quakes came in a gently rolling motion, and we felt as though we were being cradled and lulled back to sleep by Mother Nature.

But to other San Francisco newcomers, the smallest quiver could provoke a violent reaction. A medium-sized quake struck in 1957, soon after our friend John moved here. We were visiting him and his wife in their 30th Street apartment when the shaking started. John jumped to his feet, his eyes wide open, and shouted, "I'm going back to Florida!"

However, John's bride Barbara, who was from the Bay Area, was not so inclined. She had lived in Florida for a short time, until the day she discovered an alligator in her garden! Barbara thought there were worse things in life than an occasional earthquake.

It too find it hard to accept how terrible the devastation of 1906 really was. Countless lives were lost and buildings destroyed. One of the few physical remains on Nob Hill was a small colonnade at the entrance to the elegant Towne Mansion. Aptly titled "Portals of the Past," the graceful columns were later moved to Golden Gate Park, where they stand framed by greenery at the edge of a tranquil pond.

I learned about another fine downtown mansion lost to the fire—and of the people who lived in it—from the daughter of a prominent physician, Phillip Brown, and his wife, Adelaide Brown.

The Browns wrote to loved ones after

the quake, letting them know that they were alive and well. The letter was a wonderful, vivid account that began, "With the first shake, the mantle and the chimney were thrown across the room. Then the chimney from the nearby church fell through the skylights and landed on the lower floor. Every glass globe, bottle, dish, and glass in the house was smashed in forty-six seconds."

The concerned parents rushed over the bricks and rubble to the children's rooms and were relieved to find their three little ones safe and sound. A dozen or more shocks followed, but the house remained standing, although they had no gas, water, or telephone service.



When they looked out the front window, they saw their neighbors running around the middle of Van Ness Avenue in their nightgowns!

From the rooftop they could see fires igniting all over. The water mains had broken, and there was no water to put out the flames. The Palace Hotel burned down. Then City Hall was consumed.

At that point, the mayor took drastic measures, fearing that if the fire were

not stopped at Van Ness Avenue it would devour the Fillmore as well as the rest of the city. He ordered the residents to leave, allowing them to take only what they could carry. Whole blocks were then blown up with dynamite in order to halt the fire.

The fire was stopped, but only after half the city lay in ruins, and hordes of homeless people clogged every street and pathway leading out of town.

This mayhem was witnessed by a lady I spoke with one day while waiting for a bus near Van Ness and Market. She told me that as a little girl, she had stood at her window, at this same intersection, watching the masses of people streaming by, carrying their belongings. Many of them, she recalled, were carrying bird cages and Tiffany lamps.

She added that the family across the avenue had gathered their possessions, then dug a deep hole in their back yard. There they buried the piano, which was too heavy to move very far. When the ashes had settled, they returned to dig up the treasure, only to discover that someone had already stolen it!

Although the fire north of Market was stopped, it raged south into the Mission District until it reached 20th Street. At that point, one lone fire hydrant above what is now Dolores Park brought the fire to an end. This is why Noe Valley has such a wealth of vintage Victorians.

Our son Jan enjoyed living in one of them for a while—the Daly House, which overlooks the city from the southwest corner of Guerrero and 21st streets. John Daly, the owner, operated a dairy on the outskirts of San Francisco, and after the quake, a tent city sprang up in his pasture. The town that later grew out of that site was named Daly City in his honor.

Last April 18, as I traveled downtown on the J-car, the young lady seated next to me spotted the balloons, ribbons, and flowers adorning a fireplug at the southeast corner of 20th and Church streets. She wondered aloud what all the fuss was about. I was pleased to explain that this was the fireplug which according to legend had stopped the Fire of 1906.

Each April 18 at about 6:30 a.m., the members of the San Francisco Hook and Ladder Society, joined by as many '06 quake survivors as can still make it, come to repaint the hydrant in gold. The oldest survivor gets to use the spray-paint can first! Then everyone shares reminiscences and gives thanks to the heroic fireplug, which spared our delightful neighborhood for future generations to enjoy. □

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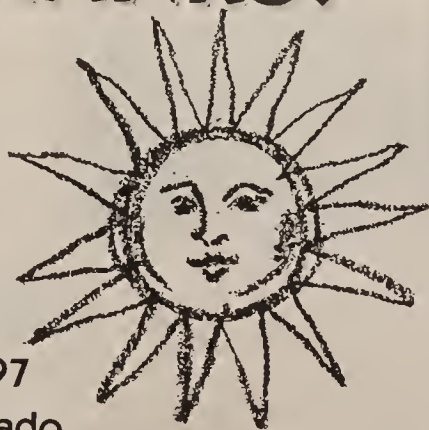


A Fun Field Trip. Children's Librarian Carol Small (top left) welcomes Ms. Blair's Spanish-immersion kindergarten class from Alvarado School to movies at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch on a recent Tuesday morning. Photo by Pamela Gerard

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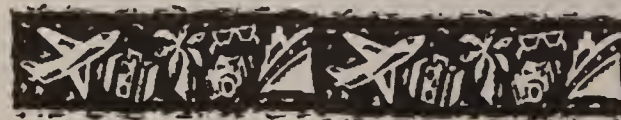
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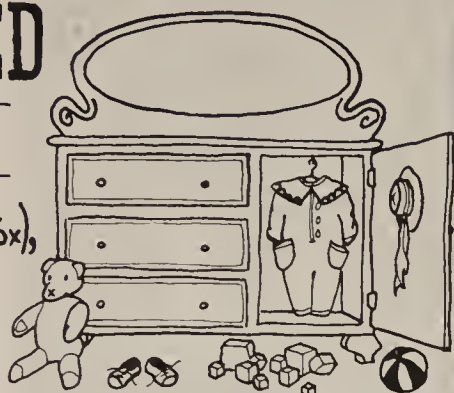


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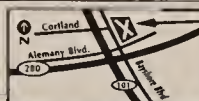
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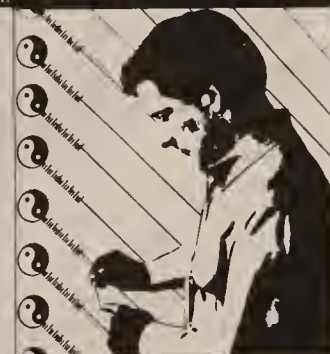
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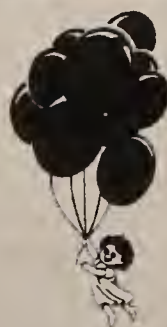
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MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

by Maire Farrington

Kyle Maxwell Lynn McConaughy

Seven-month-old Kyle McConaughy already has his own Web page, filled with family photos.

"Kyle is a child of the '90s, with a father who has way too much time on his hands," jokes his mom, Michele Lynn, 35.

But Steve McConaughy, 37, is extremely proud of his son, whom he helped deliver at 4:11 p.m. on Aug. 3, 1996, at California Pacific Medical Center. Also in attendance at the birth were midwives Maria Aorillo and Jenny Clapp, of Noe Valley-based Wisewoman Childbirth Traditions.

The baby arrived weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces, but his name was a mouthful: Kyle Maxwell Lynn McConaughy.

"Kyle's middle name is Maxwell after my father Max—in the Jewish tradition of naming a child after someone has passed away," says Michele. "He's got a lot of name for a little guy. He's going to have to grow big and strong to live up to it."

Steve and Michele met in 1980 while students at Columbia University. After relocating to the Bay Area, the couple moved into their 22nd Street home in 1986 and tied the knot two years later.

Steve is director of marketing for Hummingbird Communications, a software company in Mountain View. Michele, a writer and development consultant for nonprofit organizations (and a frequent contributor to the *Noe Valley Voice*), works out of their home.



Seven-month-old Kyle shows Mom and Dad—Michele Lynn and Steve McConaughy—how to mug for the camera. (You never know, this pic might wind up on his Web page.) Photo by Pamela Gerard

Kyle's babysitter, Alba Rivera, joins the family four days a week. "I feel like I have the best of all worlds," says Michele. "I can work, and when I want to take a break, I can do things with Kyle."

Other than socializing with Mom or Alba, while at home Kyle enjoys spinning in his Exersaucer, tracking the mobile above his crib, or just listening to ice cubes tinkling in a glass of water. "When the Niners are on, he likes to watch them play," says Dad.

Kyle rounds out his schedule with play dates and outings with Michele's mothers' group. They often go to Noe Courts park at Douglass and 24th streets. "He loves watching other kids, whether they're his age or bigger," says Michele.

On Saturday mornings, Steve and Kyle stroll down to Starbucks, Holey Bagel, or "any place that has benches out front. We sit and hang out."

With his intense dark eyes framed by

thick eyebrows and long lashes—plus dimples to accompany the smiles—Kyle is an engaging companion. And on days when he wears his purple and green "eggplant" hat, says Dad, he garners special notice from passersby. "That hat is a hit. It gets a lot of attention." But Kyle gives more than he gets. "Sometimes he looks right at people and doesn't blink at all. You don't want to get in a stare-down with him!"

Michele observes, however, that Kyle has his father's mellow temperament. "He's a very content boy—happy and easygoing like Steve. And there's another part of him that's very curious and interested in the world. Nothing escapes him. He likes to know what's going on."

In fact, Mom notes, "he literally devours the news. Everything goes into his mouth, especially now that he has two lower teeth. The *Voice* is a particular favorite." If all else fails, "he'll chew on my

chin, my nose, my shoulder, or my hand!"

He also likes to grab hold of Mom's long hair, or if not that, the telephone cord. During bath time, he tries to grab a fistful of water when it's being poured from a cup. "He can't quite figure out why he can grab my hair, but not the water," Michele says with a laugh.

His feet are fascinating, too. "When he gets excited, he'll lie there and pump his feet like he's practicing for a track meet," says Michele.

And he's learned how to roll over and sit up. Now that he's upright, he can perch on Steve's lap while Dad works on the computer or plays the piano.

Or he can pose for new pictures for his Web site. Yes, Kyle's pretty much got Dad wrapped around his little finger.

"I'll walk into the nursery when he wakes up in the morning, and he watches me with this huge smile," Steve says. "When I come home at night, he's still in a pretty good mood. For me, that's the best part—waking up to him and coming home to him."

"His smile brings us so much joy," Michele agrees. "He's so in-the-moment, so present. He really does help you remember what's important in life." □

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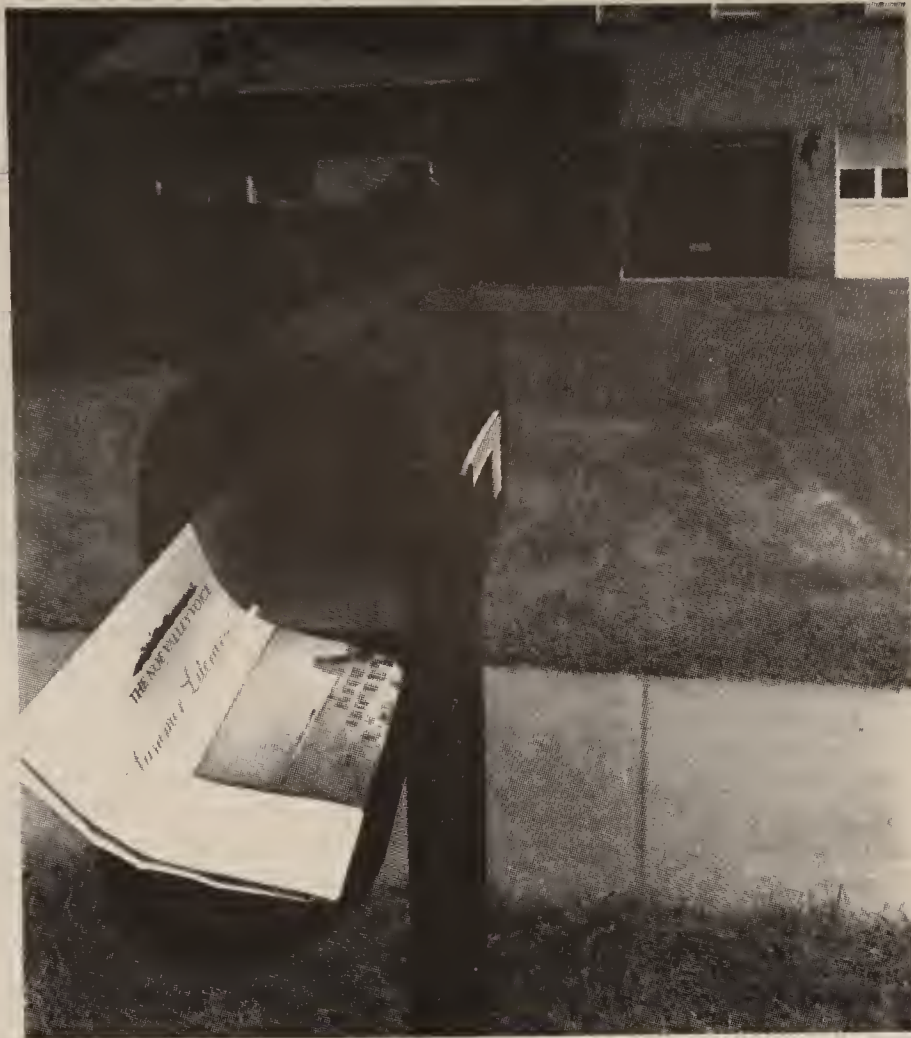


Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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Meetings: First Thursday of month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action
Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, Keith Eickman, 282-8988, Dennis Downing, 647-0937, or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: Cecile Lozano, 695-9502
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco
Contact: Susan Condon, 282-7816
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460566, San Francisco, CA 94146-0566
Meetings: Third Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 12:15 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: Barbara Russell, v.p., 285-4782; John Barbey, pres., 695-0990;
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: At least quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

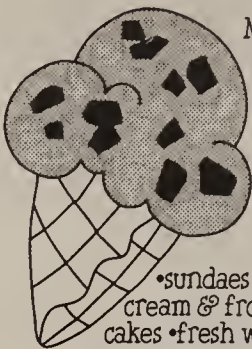
Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
Contact: Robert Roddick, pres., 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center
Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Lunch, Mon. - Fri. (donation \$1.50), 12:30 p.m. Discussion, arts and crafts, Wed. & Fri, 10:30 a.m.
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
Mailing Address: 403 28th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. Call for specifics.

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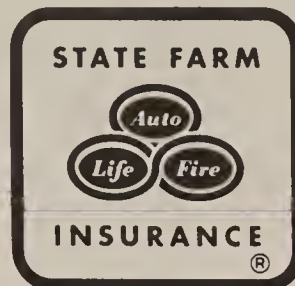
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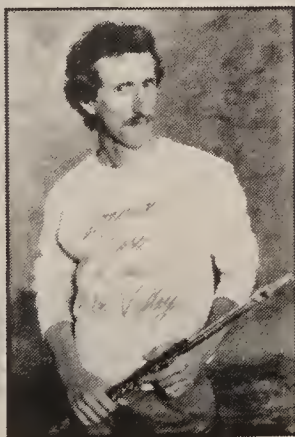
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MORE BOOKS to READ

Here are a few suggestions for books to check out at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, courtesy of head librarian Roberta Greifer and children's librarian Carol Small. Located at 451 Jersey St., the branch offers special women's and children's collections, archives of Noe Valley history, a deck and community garden, computer access, and back issues and an index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Stop by or call (695-5095) to find out the availability of books and other materials. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.

Adult Fiction

◆ Best-selling author Ridley Pearson's latest thriller, *Beyond Recognition*, has forensic investigator Lou Boldt battling a homicidal arsonist who is loose in Seattle.

◆ In the novel *Love Invents Us*, National Book Award finalist Amy Bloom depicts the complexities and frustrations that accompany this strong emotion.

◆ *Naked Came the Manatee* is a humorous suspense thriller written serially by Edna Buchanan, Elmore Leonard, and 11 other Florida writers.

◆ In *The Weight of Water* by Anita Shreve, a photographer visits a small New England island to investigate the murders of two local women that occurred a century ago.

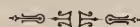
Adult Nonfiction

◆ *The 50 Year Dash* is Bob Greene's take on what it's like—physically, emotionally, and socially—to turn 50.

◆ *Strong Women Stay Young* by Miriam Nelson, Ph.D., is based on a strength training program designed to help reverse bone loss in women of all ages.

◆ *Waist-High in the World*, written by multiple sclerosis sufferer Nancy Mairs, is a funny and candid portrayal of life as seen from a wheelchair.

◆ In her memoir *What Falls Away*, actress Mia Farrow discusses her Hollywood childhood, her marriages and children, and her rocky relationship with Woody Allen.



The listings in "More Books to Read" are selected by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small. All events take place at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.

Children's Fiction

◆ Teaching, caring, playing, hugging—each of these is part of the picture in *Lots of Moms* by Shelley Rotner. Ages 2-4.

◆ You can journey through the alphabet, and through vibrant New York City as well, with Nikki Grimes' colorful book *C Is for City*. Ages 4-6.

◆ After a lengthy going-to-bed routine, a puppy finally goes to sleep where he wants to in *Biscuit* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli. Ages 4-6.

◆ Jack outwits the hungry bear and rescues several family members in the American folk tale *Sody Sallyratus*, retold by Joanne Compton. Ages 4-8.

◆ *Red Bird* by Barbara Mitchell depicts a Native American powwow where Katie has a chance to see relatives and enjoy Nanticoke food, music, and dancing. Ages 6-9.

◆ If you would like a few chuckles added to your daily routine, be sure to read Jack Prelutsky's new book of poems, *A Pizza the Size of the Sun*. Ages 8 and up.

◆ *The Golden Aquarians*, a book by Monica Hughes, takes place in the year 2092, when Walt tries to stop his father from damaging the planet Aqua and its froglike telepathic inhabitants. Ages 10 and up.

◆ A friendship with the woman next door helps 13-year-old Jesse through a difficult year in *Under the Mermaid Angel*, written by Martha Moore. Ages 11 and up.

Films, Songs, and Stories

◆ The library will show *movies and cartoons* for preschoolers on Tuesday, April 15, at 10 and 11 a.m.

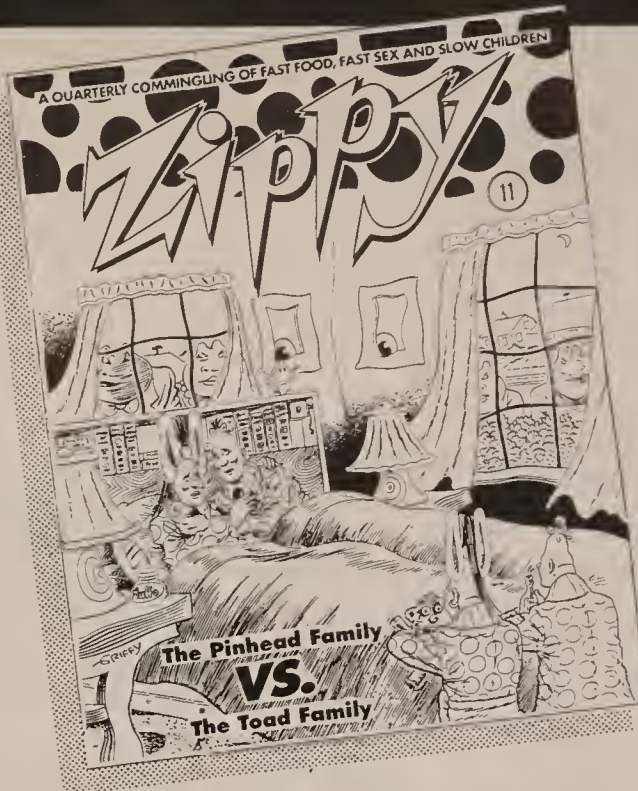
◆ Babies and toddlers can hear stories and tunes at the Wednesday *lapsits*, this month on April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, at 7 p.m.

◆ *Preschool story time* for kids 3 to 5 is at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 22, and 29.

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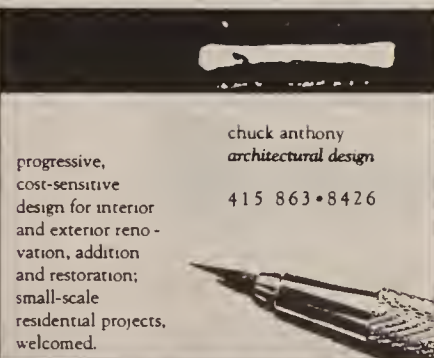
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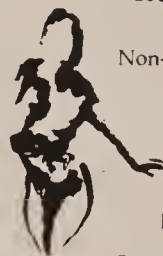
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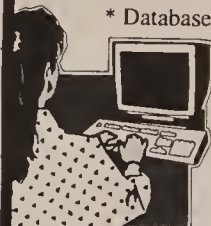
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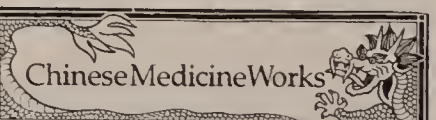
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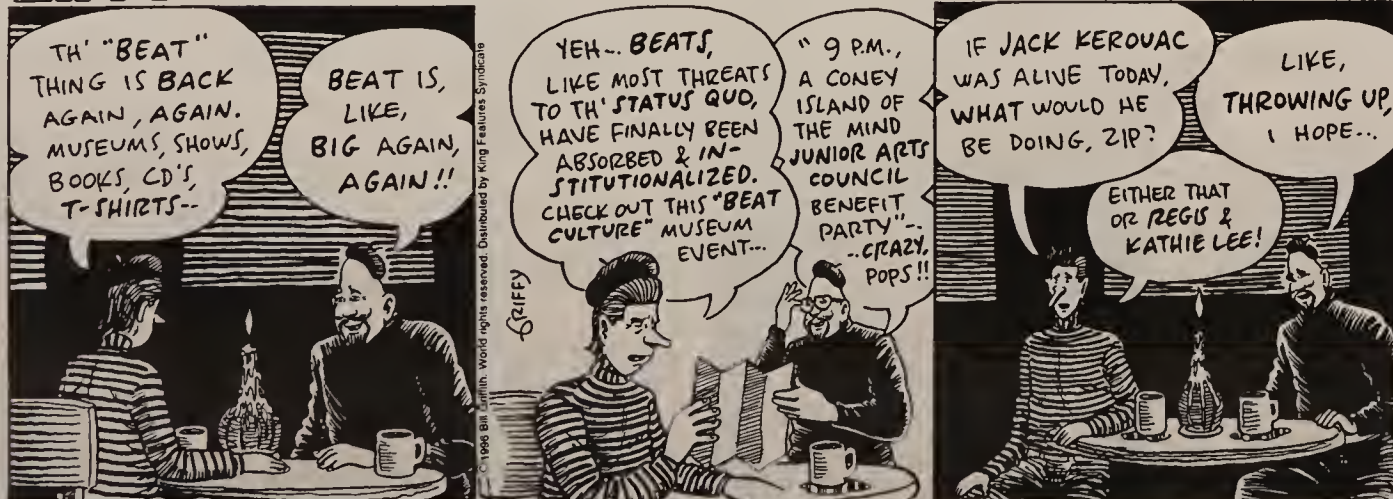
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Need an Extra Bedroom/Bath for visiting relatives or friends? Rent ours. No frills. Low cost. 282-2550.

Housecleaning. Weekly or not. Experienced. Reliable. References. Call 648-1646, Jane.

Introduction to San Francisco extension of Rudolf Steiner College teacher education program. 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 12, San Francisco Waldorf School, 2938 Washington St., San Francisco. (415) 331-8879.

Looking for a Unique Gift? Mad Moon Creations can help you celebrate milestone occasions and show someone how much they are loved. Our keepsake books are customized with photographs, stories, and artwork from family and friends. See our books on display at Just For Fun. Or call for a brochure: 550-1919.

Garage Wanted. Private, semi-private for older car. Barry, (415) 863-5085.

Avoid Resume Rejection. Get noticed with a professional profile. Select from resume editing, critiquing, or complete planning and writing. Call 749-3171. Write it Right! Resumes.

Amsterdam Housecleaner available for excellent housekeeping. Honest, thorough, with reliable references. \$11/hour. Call Petrouschka, 431-8387.

Secretary: Word processing, typing, general office work. Helene, (415) 334-9853.

A Home in Noe Valley? Extremely responsible 31-year-old female seeks studio, one-bedroom, or possible share. Move in June or July. Beth, (415) 647-6854.

Vanity Cleaning Service for homes or apartments; 15 years' experience. Good references available. Call now! 821-6358.

Garage Sale. The San Francisco. Homeschool Network is planning a garage sale at Sanchez/26th, Saturday, April 5 from 10-12:30. Kids will be selling toys, books, clothes, snacks, etc. Information: call 282-0749. See you there!

Salon-Trained Cosmetologist will cut/color your hair at affordable price. Call Laura at 267-3269 or 647-8478.

Home and Office Organizer. Too many papers? Too little time? Margo Rila, (415) 861-4551. Reasonable rates. References.

Smith Corona Word Processor with printer, easy to use. \$200. Call (415) 863-1936.

Sale: Christmas Silk Arrangements/baskets, reduced prices: 584-4321.

Gardening Service: Includes consultations, design, and renovations. Expert planting, pruning, and maintenance. 626-1258.

Upholstery: 1 rebuild and recover overstuffed chairs, sofas, dining chairs, and ottomans. Also sew cushions and do automobile upholstery. Free estimates, pick-up and delivery. Jorge Meraz-Baca, (415) 282-2256.

Art Tutor for children and adults. Professional artist/educator offers private sessions in painting, drawing, sculpture, and crafts, either in your home or my art studio. Enhance your creativity and visual awareness. Call Missy, 282-4565.

Drum Lessons. Over the course of the last 20 years, I have played drums professionally and taught in New York City, L.A., and now San Francisco. I teach all levels but particularly enjoy working with beginners. Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to play music with other musicians. Call Bruce, 826-1709.

Desperately Seeking Irish Setters! Be the first Irish Setter to join our prestigious clientele. Dog Walking Service of San Francisco, (415) 731-0120.

Now Hiring Dog Walkers. Call Dog Walking Service of San Francisco, 731-0120.

Walkin' Wagin' Pet and Plant Care by Carla, located in Noe Valley. Serving all of San Francisco, South San Francisco, and Marin. Love and attention. Walks, runs, or sitting. Health care. Feeding. And hygiene-related tasks. Services for all animals (yes, the big ones, too). Responsible, mature, reliable, fun, and smart animal owner with 20 years of experience. 648-3651.

PMS/Menopause Workshop. Explore natural and easeful ways to help relieve symptoms of PMS and menopause through yoga poses, breathing practices, deep relaxation, and meditation. Don't eat for two hours before class, wear warm loose clothing, and bring a towel. Wednesday, April 15, 7 to 9 p.m. \$10. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Flute Lessons. Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. Fifteen years of experience. Carla, (415) 648-3651.

Give Yourself the Joy of feeling balanced, deeply relaxed, and grounded with an Acupressure Massage. Mainly focusing on the pressure points of the meridian system, my work releases tension, which allows healing chi energy, oxygen, and strength to flow throughout the body. Done in combination with Cranial Sacral, Tui-Na, and Foot Bone Massage, this style can help restore harmony to the neck and spine, release headaches and stored trauma, creating a sense of wellbeing and improved health. For more information and appointment call Margaret Medeiros, C.M.T. 550-8940.

Housecleaning available. References, insurance, bonded. 634-0959.

For Sale: Remodeling Remnants in good condition. Refrigerators, gas stoves, dishwashers, wood doors and windows, electric baseboard heaters, mirrored closet door set, fireplace trim. (415) 821-9145.

Noe Office Sublet. Available April 1st, with option to renew lease. Call 338-3044.

Drama Classes and Summer Camp. Angel Heart Acting Workshops, 103 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131; (415) 789-8221: A place where confidence grows and imaginations soar. Theater games, improvisation, and performance for ages 8-15 in Noe Valley. Spring classes: Wednesdays, one hour, April 2 to June 4, \$75. Summer Drama Camp '97: Two-week sessions, 8-11 years, July 21 to Aug. 1, 9 a.m. to noon; 12-15 years, Aug. 4-15, 9 a.m. to noon. \$120.

Pet Care. Does Rover need a pet sitter? Exercise? Training? Arise to the vet? Positively Pets can help! Expert care for all pets. Ten years' experience. We love older pets. Bonded. References. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

Dogs Just Wanna Have Fun. Leave your dog with me while you're away and he'll get all the play and exercise he craves, along with lots of love. She'll go on long, daily runs and exciting trips to beaches and parks. Rate are \$6.50 to \$14 per day, depending on the size of your dog. Meals are included. Doggie daycare also! Many references. Call Bob, (415) 282-7467.

Tax Preparation for individuals, financial services for travelers and the distracted. Enrolled Agent licensed to represent clients before the IRS. Reasonable rates. \$10 discount with this ad. 695-1819. Gretchen Beck, E.A.

Yoga in Noe Valley: For every body and every part! Also private lessons and arthritis classes. New Dawn Yoga Therapy, (415) 285-1831.

Math Tutoring: (415) 285-1831.

Stressless Housecleaning. Superior quality. Customized cleaning. Errand services. Free estimates. Call Jeanine, 564-2877.

Meditative Movement Workshops working with breath, sound, movement, and stillness. Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Feb. 22, March 22, April 19, 1997. Classes are right here in Noe Valley! To register or inquire, call (415) 641-9633.

Spiritual Growth, Humanistic Values: Classes and worship, Trinity Episcopal, Bush and Gough; Robert Cromey, priest and therapist, 1688 Bush St., Sundays, 9:45 a.m. adult class, 11 a.m. liturgy, (415) 775-1117.

The Cat & Plant Care proprietress continues to provide TLC for cats and homes in Noe Valley and environs. Excellent local references. Makes daily visits on a set schedule. Over 15 years' experience. Call for a cat chat, etc. Anna-Kajs (A-K), 648-8132.

Computer Forms. Invoices, "Quicken" checks, 500 free envelopes on first order. Lyle, 431-2700.

Supportive Therapy for individuals and couples. If you're struggling with relationship issues, anxiety, parenting problems, life transitions, or other concerns, I can help. Affordable fees. Insurance accepted. Mary Pat Power, M.F.C.C. (#32417). Call 974-9838.

Books Bought. I come to you. Call L.J., 469-9338 (46-year San Francisco resident).

Recover Lost Fortunes. Manual shows you how. \$20 billion in lost fortunes goes unclaimed! Free information from local author. Mazel Publishing, P.O. Box 460040, San Francisco, CA 94146-0040.

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Transform Your Jungle into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

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Slipcovers & Window Treatments. High-quality custom sewing services since 1980. Pillows, table skirts, bed dressings. Also unique clothing designs, weddings, tailored garments, copy your favorite item! Frillery, Designs by Wendy L. Miller. (415) 648-8514.

Word Processing (expertise: legal). Tape transcription, editing, mailings, repetitive letters, resumes, letter composition, complaint letters. Phone-in dictation system. Dena Reiner, (415) 821-4661.

Need Help Organizing Chaos? Cleaning or dispersing your possessions? Museum Collection Managers—experienced in caring for, storing, and moving objects, photos, and archives—will clear away your clutter. Call: Overmire Associates, (415) 837-1203. North Beach office.

Furniture Wanted. I need old dressers, tables, desks, etc. Will repair and/or refinish if necessary. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

Overwhelmed by Clutter, bills, closets? Professional organizing team to the rescue. We offer expert, simple solutions to what goes where. Desks, closets, relocations, garages, kitchens, filing systems, and more. Free phone consultation. Call Ship-Shape, 550-0658.

Liz's Unique Bed and Breakfast. Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the fragrance of homemade delicacies and fresh ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess. (415) 648-2515.

How to Place a Class Ad

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by 30¢ a word, and enclose a check or money order for the full amount. Note that phone numbers, including area code, count as one word. Mail the ad and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the 15th of the month preceding the month you'd like to advertise in. Even if the ad is a renewal from a prior issue, please send us the full text of your ad.

Discount for Repeat Advertisers: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the same class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the May 1997 issue, hitting the streets of Noe Valley Wednesday, April 30. The deadline for Class Ads is **April 15**. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Sorry, but we are unable to accept orders by phone or e-mail at this time.

However, you might like to know that the Class Ads in each month's issue of the *Voice* are also displayed on our Web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. The advantage of viewing them online is that you can search for key words, like *painting*, *pets*, or *piano lessons*. As an advertiser, you get month-long, worldwide exposure for your product or service. As a reader, you can look up the online ads if you've already recycled the newspaper.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in boldface. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you. ☐

Garage for Rent. Duncan and Dolores. \$160 per month. Call 821-2771.

Therapy Office Wanted on Thursdays. (510) 658-1464.

Klasky and Sons Landscaping. "Let us transform your garden." Landscape design and installation, ornamental pruning. Free estimates. References. 752-8678.

Rejuvenate Your Home! Decorative painting specialists will give you in-home decorative painting lessons or they will do the work themselves. Give your walls new depth and color. Call SW Designs, 643-9833.

If You're Tired or you don't have time to clean your house, just call me. Dinora Gil, 282-4387.

Dog Walking Service of San Francisco. 731-0120.

The Noe Valley Voice
Class Ads are also posted on
our Web site:

www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Visit us on your computer or
at the Noe Valley Library.

ZIPPY

"SERVER CANNOT BE LOCATED"

BILL GRIFFITH



and now for the RUMORS behind the news

A White House Christmas

By Mazook

BELIEVE IT OR NOT Noe Valley will be in the national spotlight this month, when President Bill Clinton arrives to make a major policy speech April 1.

High-level White House sources told this reporter in late March that Clinton would call his speech "A Noe Valley Notion." The speech is to be delivered at Douglass Park at noon. Rec and Park has constructed temporary bleachers along the cliffs. Secret Service agents have also been spotted scouting nearby roofs.

According to our briefing, Clinton will announce a new pilot program whereby federal funds will be used to make up any deficits in health, education, and welfare budgets in Noe Valley and other Mission District neighborhoods.

This revolutionary experiment will (1) fully fund the schools; (2) deliver universal health care; (3) expand childcare services; (4) renovate all our park and recreation areas and include afterschool supervised activities for children; (5) expand senior services and homeless food programs; (6) purchase new books and computers for the Noe Valley Library; (7) repair the streets and fill the potholes, and steamclean 24th Street every two weeks; (8) rebuild the Castro Hill cable car; (9) replace all defective (or noisy) streetcars on the J-Church line; and (10) guarantee a job and place to live for all local citizens.

To fund these programs, Clinton will reduce the budgets and staffs of the White House and both houses of Congress.

Said one Clinton aide: "If the pilot project works in Noe Valley, then we can make it nationwide by the year 2000. That bigger program will be funded by eliminating the Department of Defense budget, and the national debt."

Fat chance, friends—just another April Fool's joke (sorry). Not only is there is no pilot project, there don't seem to be any pilots in the White House, or in Congress either. They are too busy conducting hearings over their own welfare.

☎☎☎

SPEAKING OF CLINTON: Noe Valleon Nancy Lacer took a trip to the White House at the invitation of President Bill this past Christmas.

In November the president and Mrs.



It's Hot in the Kitchen: Cafe owner and new city supervisor Gavin Newsom stood in for Amos Brown at last month's meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, and got an earful from Noe Valley residents—on parking, ramps, and the aroma drifting from Hahn's Hibachi Restaurant on Castro Street. Photo by Beverly Thorp

Clinton invited professional ballet companies from across America, along with woodworking artists and members of the American Needlepoint Guild, to create ornaments inspired by the *Nutcracker* ballet for the White House Christmas tree.

Nancy paints scenery for the San Francisco Opera and Ballet with artist Joan Frenkel (a former Noe Valleon herself). Joan sculpted an exact replica of the beloved dancing bear in the *Nutcracker*, and Nancy painted it.

"Together with Joan and Susan Tuohy [scenic charge person], I went to the White House on Dec. 14. The nation's 'house' was beautifully decorated, and we will always know that our ornament is in the presidential collection," says Nancy.

Maybe next time she'll get to stay at the presidential B&B.

☎☎☎

KWANZAA, HANUKKAH, AND XMAS may be long gone, vernal equinoxiously speaking, but that's still the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association's number-one project these days.

I'm sure we can all agree that the ratty glitter and tinsel decorations that have been festooned on 24th Street telephone poles for about 15 years (more or less) have become not only too funky but also ecclesiastically incorrect.

The NVMPA has formed a committee of three (Sandy Sohcot, Marjorie Panetti, and Ilse Cordoni) to push ahead with plans for new street decorations. By the autumnal equinox and Thanksgiving, the group hopes to have purchased and displayed 40 holiday banners in and about Downtown Noe Valley.

Says Sandy, the Merchants have "approved the design of 'Happy Holidays' banners that are fun and bright and representative of the community."

Cost is an issue. It looks like 40 banners at \$200 per banner for the 70-member association adds up to a budget crisis. The committee is now hoping to get some of our more prosperous businesses to "adopt a banner."

How bout it, Noe Valley? Sponsors should call NVMPA president Bob Roddick during normal business hours at 641-8687 and ask him if you can fax a check.

☎☎☎

THE TOY STORY of the spring is the change of ownership at the Ark toy store at the corner of Vicksburg and 24th. Virgilia Dakin recently sold the place to manager Pam Byars.

Says Pam, "Virgilia is going back to school, and I have been running the store for the last three years. I'm a fourth-generation Mission District resident, and I love Noe Valley, so I am doing it."

Pam says she is bringing in the Lego

line, staying open later during the summer, and featuring a new line of red Italian tricycles.

Which toy is the Ark's best seller? That's easy. The walking duck, of course. It's the push toy you see toddlers pushing around in circles. The duck on the stick is 14 bucks.

☎☎☎

NOE VALLEY NIGHT OWLS are fretting about the 2 to 6 a.m. closure of the erstwhile "open 24 hours" Happy Donuts at 24th and Church. In February a sign posted on the door said Noe Valley's only 24-hour business was applying for a cabaret license. Did this mean singing donuts would soon be dancing on the countertops? The answer is no.

According to owner T.Y. Chan, the San Francisco Police Department has taken the position that in order for Happy Donuts to continue to operate between 2 and 6 in the morning, they technically should have a cabaret license.

Chan, who with her husband Tek Lou bought the business seven years ago, says she was quite surprised when police decreed she would have to close at 2 a.m. until they had the permit, since Happy Donuts has been serving our neighborhood—and the police—24 hours a day for almost 20 years.

"We've lost lots of business this month because a lot of people were coming in here for food after the bars close at two," Chan says. "Also, people who go to work early start coming in here at four a.m. for their coffee and donut."

The hearing on the cabaret license was set for March 26, and Chan was told by the police that "there should be no problem." The result was rendered too late for this issue of the *Voice*, so check back next month to see how Chan fared.

☎☎☎

HARD NEWS CHECK. The *Voice* has been trying, but we can't seem to find out what commercial tenants will fill the four slots at Cassidy Construction's development at the old Spanish Church site next to Bell Market. Joe Cassidy is not returning our calls, nor those of at least one 24th Street proprietor who was inquiring about leasing a space.

Randall Kostick of Zephyr Realty said he thought that Bill McInerney of Union Street Properties might be handling the leasing of the units, because of McInerney's involvement in Cassidy's original purchase of the property. But McInerney isn't returning calls either. A friendly woman in Cassidy's office, Angeline, said Joe was handling the leasing himself.

Whoever the tenants are, rumor has it that their rents start at \$4 per square foot.

The official rumor on Anna Muru, the

famous Pigeon Lady of Sanchez Street, is that since the court says she can no longer feed her flocks, she has sold her house and is moving back to her birthplace, Estonia. (Please say it isn't true.)

For those of you on Noe Hill who have seen the boarded-up Noe Hill Laundromat at the corner of Noe and 22nd and assumed a new restaurant was on its way in, worry not. The popular laundromat (people come from Eureka Valley) is having a replumbing and dry-rot repair.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club got newly appointed supervisor Gavin Newsom to appear at last month's meeting. Who? Rumor is that Gavin thought Noe Valley was somewhere between Mill Valley and Pleasant Hill.

This month the club will host a "Great Stadium Debate," airing the pros and cons on the 49ers' ballot bid. The show starts April 9, 7 p.m., at our local stadium, the Noe Valley Ministry.

☎☎☎

SPEAKING OF POLITICS, the *S.F. Weekly* did a front-page story (March 5) on the upper Church Street ramp-age.

The cover asked the question: "Did Mayor Brown really stop a Muni project in midstream, delay handicapped access to transit, and cost taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars, just to please some Noe Valley businessmen?" It also showed a cartoon of Brown standing on the Muni tracks and pushing a wheelchair aside.

Needless to say, the piece was highly inflammatory and castigated Brown for halting ramp construction after 350 people showed up at a Town Hall meeting at St. Paul's in January.

"So why is Brown, a man who has told the most powerful interests in the state to take a powder when doing so suited him, reacting with such priestly attentiveness to one block of mighty Noe Valley?" the article went on. "The answer is simple: votes. In the December 1995 runoff between Brown and then Mayor Frank Jordan, Noe Valley gave Brown nearly 70 percent of its votes. But there is more. The neighborhood is the fourth most heavily Democratic area in the city, and it produces the fourth highest voter turnout. Mayor Brown surely understands this. More important, so does Noe Valley."

We do? I for one didn't realize we came in fourth in so many areas. Well, the fourth estate thinks Brown stopped things because logic, not politics, made him do it.

Noe Valleons were tired of being railroaded by city agencies. They wanted a say in their civic destinies.

Have a foolish April and see you at the local May Day. Ciao for now. ☐



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NO WAY VALLEY VOICE

Pall Mall Riddled with New Stores

By Brad Pitt

Controversy continues to rage over the development being constructed in the lot once occupied by the Second Spinach Dentist Church on the 3900 block of 24th Street. The proposed shopping area, christened the Pall Mall in honor of the cutest Beatle, has been a thorn in the side of the Friends of Neighbors for months.

"That name just burns me up," said Friends president Georgia Finnicky. "Some of us actually preferred Ringo."

The Pall Mall's retail tenants, however, should draw no fire. According to mall

promoter Joe Cammell, the shops have been chosen on the basis of being unique one-of-a-kind businesses offering goods and services available nowhere else in Noe Valley:

Poise in the 'Hood: A charm school for local gang members, urban guerrillas, and curious wannabes. Classes include *Having Your Gang Colors Done*, *Noe-bonics*, *24th Street Swaggers and Struts*, and *Which Knife Do I Use?*

Smoke Starters: If you've never been able to stand the smell of smoke, this support group is for you. You will be smoking, and enjoying it, within 10 weeks—you'll wish you joined years ago! Special cigar workshops available.

The Jew's Inn (formerly the Bar Mitzvah): Listen to "Hava Nagila" on the jukebox while eating cheeses of Nazareth and 300 varieties of matzoh balls.

Terra Firma Pottery Studio: Hand-paint your own or a friend's cremains urn.

A thoughtful last gift.

Bacterium Emporium: A pet shop with a difference! Tiny, single-celled life forms are easy to take care of and guaranteed hypoallergenic. Why feed and walk a collie when you can sit and watch E. coli reproduce?

Past Lives Stock & Antiques: After a hypnotic regression consultation, the in-house psychic (who once was Cleopatra) will sell you back the treasures you owned in previous lives.

Skin Care for the Oughties: Children from birth through age 10 can begin an intensive personalized regimen of skin treatments to postpone early signs of aging, from tantrum lines to crybaby puffiness. Baby fat sculpting and liposuction also available.

Madam's Modems: This store offers custom-made Victorian lace computer

Continued Where Happy Little Blue Birds Fly

Voice Policy on Bomb Threats

Bomb threats must be submitted at least a month in advance to make the *Voice* deadline. If you mail us your bomb threat, please affix sufficient postage. Also, allow extra time for envelope opening, unfolding, detonation, etc.

If you phone in your bomb threat, be aware that our answering machine gobbles up messages. Please call a second time to verify your first message was received. Do not use a cellular phone while driving in a car to call in your bomb threat.

If you fax or e-mail your bomb threat to us, you will be sorry.

Please avoid calling in bomb threats on days of the month when we're covering news, proofing stories, putting the issue to bed, or feeling surly. By following these guidelines, you may be assured of proper publicity for your event.



But Are the Permits in Order? After six months of dust, noise, earthworms, and bug bites, 24th Street merchants are beginning to grow concerned about the progress of the construction project at the old Second Spinach Church next to Bell Market. The development, originally conceived as a mini-mall by the Cassidy Anaconda Step Dancing & Strip Mining Co., caused a dip in Easter sales along Noe Valley's main commercial strip and the loss of several parking places at Castro and 24th streets. (Shoppers are asked to avoid the sidewalk on the north side of 24th and to park their cars at Yosemite.) When cornered at Eddie DeBartolo's office downtown, developer Hopalong Cassidy defended the actions of his crew, saying, "The foreman is a person with OCD [obsessive compulsive disorder] who was accidentally left alone with a shovel over the weekend. Don't worry, we'll have things back to their original stadium, I mean status, on Friday." Photo montage by the photographer formerly known as Charles Kennard.

Nome Cooking

Blubber— It's Not Just For Breakfast

By Thighmaster Doug

In response to the surprise popularity of a new Fat in the Box on 24th Street, Noe Valley merchants are hustling to keep up with the latest food trend: blubber.

At Happy Mukluks, customers from Blob Hill to Bernie Heights are lapping up an array of heart-stopping arctic treats, from deep-fried blubber balls to frozen penguinsicles.

Twenty-fourth Street's Pan Nose Restaurant announced it would change its traditional Greek cuisine to Nouveau Alaskan. "Our specialty will be 'The Iditerod,' a husky-on-a-stick on a bed of iceberg lettuce and mush," said chef/owner Mazook of the North.

Over at the Blubbiner Bar, which formerly sold fish and chips only, the gang is wolfing down barbecued auk wings, seal-fin wraps, and eskimo pies. "My bum looks like a sackful of live ferrets," said waitress/duchess Sarah Ferguson.

Why this sudden craving for lard?

"People are tired of feeling good," said Noe Valley Merchants and Cholesterol Association president H.M.O. Pinafore. "Life's too short not to eat fat," he added, speaking from his death bed.

The Church Street eateries are also running with the pack. Last month a sign in the window at What's for After-Dinner read "Save the Whales for Last!" "All our desserts are made from large aquatic mammals," said host Rosie O'Donnell, a large mammal herself.

Meanwhile, the fast food chain Blubber King, a subsidiary of Exxon, announced it was moving into the spot recently vacated by Thin for Now. The menu will feature the "Monte Crisco" burger, fatty melts (available in leaded or unleaded), and gravy milkshakes.

Continued to Juneau Where



He Earns Ten Cents a Minute.

After an arduous search, the board of directors of Sprint Personal Communications Inc. announced April 1 that they have been unable to find any resident or business owner in Noe Valley willing to permanently display one of their fiber-optic antennas. Their problem was solved, however, when the company named recent parolee I. Juan Moore as their new "Mr. Sprint," who will wander the neighborhood wearing the high-fiber antennas on his head. Mr. Sprint plans to follow a circuitous path 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ensuring us all state-of-the-art fruit and fiber reception.

Photo by MCI Kennard.



Noe Valley 2020 (a cautionary tale)

Noe Valley may soon be a ghost town. Last week scientists offered a grim view of the future, if we keep using up our coffee resources at the current rate. Two coffee wells have supplied the entire neighborhood and the Safeway side of Diamond Heights for the past 80 years. Recent increased consumption, due both to a proliferation of cafes and a sudden inexplicable thirst for the energizing beverage, has led observers to predict the drying up of both wells.

The repercussions of the coffee drought, as seen in this computer rendering of 24th Street looking west to Twin Peaks (with the Noe Valley Ministry in the right foreground), would be an arid Noe Valley landscape.

Potential problems are muddy Muni ramps, the appearance of the Vulture Lady, double-parked covered wagons, preschoolers tumbling along with the tumbling tumbleweed, Thrifty Dry Goods offering six shooters for the price of five, saloons and houses of ill repute opening on Sanchez Street, and a return to those thrilling days of yesteryear when Cowpeople and Native Americans roamed the plains.

"Thar's only so much brew in them wells," cautioned oldtimer Zahnen "Earl" Grey. "When it's gone, it's gone."

Photo of the future by Hale Bopp.

The Last of the Unemployed Coffee Drinkers

By Loren Dilbert

Welfare reform has finally hit Noe Valley. Starting this month, coffee drinkers on 24th Street will have exactly one year to finish their lattes. Then it's back to work.

A new city statute requires those who sit in cafes and drink coffee between the hours of 9 and 5 to either have a note from their current job or be registered as an idler with the Employment Deployment Department. Anyone jobless or unregistered after April 1 will be refused service.

The legislation was sponsored by irate J-Church commuters, who according to ringleader Rollo Decques, organized to

speak out against "those arts-grant-getting, rich-relative-sponging, lazy so-and-so's in spandex slacking off in the sun."

Temp office worker Sally Forth said, "When my daughter Rotunda Ann rode downtown with me on Take the Tykes to Work Day, she asked why all those people were sitting around and not working. I explained they were writers, artists, and musicians. She said she wanted to be one, too. Now what am I supposed to tell her?"

The commuters petitioned the Bored of Supervisors, demanding a law that would make it harder for coffee drinkers to while away their hours. Under the influence of Herb Caen martinis, the Board accidentally voted "aye" instead of "nay."

But Martha Starbuck Spinelli, an opponent of the law, has already suggested a loophole for coffee lovers—the laptop computer. "It's going to be a while before the city can organize the manpower to look on your screen and see whether you're actually working."

Rare Snail Should Be Cooked Longer

By S. Cargo

The Environmental Rejection Agency announced today that it has discovered a rare specimen, the blue-eyed *slugus loonitunium*, long thought extinct, under the foundation of a home on 21st Street.

After excavating beneath the house, government scientists determined that the site was a rare mollusk breeding ground, which would now require preservation under the Deranged Species Act of 1996.

The *slugus loonitunium* is similar to the common garden snail introduced on the Peninsula by French epicurean immigrants in the mid-1800s. But it is distinguished by its shell, which spirals in a counterclockwise manner (unlike the common snail, which spirals counter-clockwise).

So as not to disturb the snails' habitat, the human residents of the house, Leo and Florence Holub, have been asked to move to a small shack at the rear of the property.

However, as if instinctively aware of their significance, the Holubs had already given all their food and earthly possessions to the snails, who knocked on their back door and demanded chocolate.

"They traded us their shells, which are really very pretty," said Florence Holub, who described the snails' visit in her column in the Voice.



Your Common Garden Snail. We're all familiar with the clockwise spiral of this friendly fellow's shell. Photo by Leo Holub.



The Rare *Slugus Loonitunium*. This winsome gastropod is known by his counterclockwise shell. Photo by Leo Lion.

Smokin' New Pall Mall

Continued from Somewhere Over the Rainbow

cozies, chintz keyboard skirts, and embroidered mouse pads in all sizes (specify Maxi mouse pads, Minnie Mouse pads).

Muni Wraps: A shop selling fine art reproductions of Muni murals, including the primal "Pink Pygmies Undulating on a Turquoise Tapeworm," designed for the J-Church line.

Your Dirty Wrap: A 24-hour dry cleaners, specializing in Jimmy Cagney-era coats.

Wrap Soda in Blue: This concession features nutritious Orange Julius smoothies wrapped in an extra-thick blue corn tortilla (vitamin spikes extra).

Fish Wraps: Clothe your fish with our huge selection of back issues from the Noe Valley Voice.

Women, you're never too young for
Estrogen Cookies!

from the makers of Hormone Hams

Zesties™

The new melt-in-your-mouth treat
designed especially for you by
pregnant mares

Relieves headaches, back pain, irritability, night sweats, loss of libido, flatulence, incontinence, dry skin, creaky knees, crow's feet, sudden bouts of bloat, feelings of dread, involuntary animal noises ("moo!"), losing your train of thought ("baaa!"), banging into walls, the dropsies, and all your perimenopausal symptoms!

And they're low-fat!

Also try our **Testies™** — testosterone frosted ginger snaps!

Ingredients. Estrogen, Flour, Sucrose, Fructose, Dextrose, Mrs. Butterworth's Syrup, Kool-ade, Reese's Pieces, Vodka, Nicorette Gum, Phen-fen, Serotonin, St. John's Wort, Prozac, Zolof, Paxil, Rogaine, DHEA, Melatonin, Feng Shui, Red Dye No. 2, Beta Hydroxy, and Soyient Green. No MSG.

*except in California and the District of Columbia

MORE AND MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

Brandon and Brandon Brio

By Anne Vitro

Brandon 6 and Brandon 7 arrived in the world at 3:40 p.m. on March 13, and the boys' parents knew exactly what to expect. Gene and Em Brio are now the proud parents of eight boys, each of whom weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and each of whom has the same cheerful temperament and wavy brown hair. That's right...the boys are clones!

The boys range in age from newborn to 6, and are named Brandon 1, Brandon 2, Brandon 3, Juan, Brandon 4, Brandon 5, Brandon 6, and Brandon 7. "We really love the name Brandon," says Em, "and in Gaelic it name means 'he who buys wholesale.'" But why "Juan"? "That's when we were living on César Chavez Street," Gene says.

Recent news about successful sheep and monkey cloning just makes the Brios roll their eyes and smile. "Sheep, schmeep," she laughs. "Noe Valley's been quietly cloning for years!" Through trial



Mom Em Brio holds newborn Brandon 6 in her lap as father Gene and sons (top row) Brandons 2, 5, and 7 and (bottom row) Brandon 4 and Juan wear the same happy smile. (Brandons 1 and 3 were outside with the sheep.) Photo by Dolly Thorp.

and error ("Let's not talk about the errors!" jokes Gene) and an assortment of supplies from Walgreen's and Radio Shack, Gene and Em figured out how to clone their first baby boy, Brandon 1.

In the game of parenting one-upsmanship, the Brios surely have an unbeatable full house (actually, 8 of a kind). They take comfort in the knowledge that their children are all exactly the same. "We don't really like surprises," says Gene.

Em explains, "Originally, we thought we'd just clone Brandon once, but when you've got a good thing, you just want more. Then we moved into this fixer-upper, and we knew we'd need more helping hands."

The couple met in 1984. They almost split up after the sixth child, but then they called radio talk-show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger, who browbeat them into taking responsibility for their brood.

Gene is not a fertility expert, but rather

a traffic engineer whose specialty is the installation of "Yield" signs. "I used to be in 'Stop Signs,'" he said.

Em works part-time as an organic nutritional counselor, who tailors diets based on the zodiac. "Don't eat celery if you're a Gemini," she advises solemnly.

Though too young to re-wire the old chandeliers that hang in the house, the boys are obviously talented. "Ooh, look at that," marvels Em, as Brandon 5 pours oatmeal into a heating duct. "He's going to be a great scientist someday." Meanwhile, Brandon 7, who they've already nicknamed "Daredevil," falls asleep on the family cat, and Brandon 2 and Juan wave happily at the ceiling.

Brandon 3 has been talking since he was 17 months, says Mom proudly. Of course, Brandons 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and Juan also began talking at 17 months. Em points out that each of the boys has 10 fingers (they did not disclose the number of toes) and says that the younger boys actually cry when they are upset or tired.

"And they all love keys!" exclaims Gene, as Brandon 3 demonstrates that he also loves electrical outlets and creating showy displays of sparks.

The Brandons and Juan provide hours of endless entertainment for their parents, but Gene adds, "As soon as they can put up sheetrock, they'll be a big help with the renovations!" □

Few Notice Jesus on Twenty-Fourth Street

By Holly Toledo

Perhaps because of all the amazing phenomena surrounding the coming millennium — St. Francis on a tortilla, Mother Teresa on an English muffin, and Madonna's baby's father on 24th Street — when Jesus of Nazareth visited Noe Valley last month, he barely caused a ripple.

He was first sighted at the Wooden Heel, trying to redeem a pair of resoled sandals (he was carrying the store's Heel Club card — Buy 6, Get 1 Free). Unfortunately, the new heels he'd asked for had been discontinued in 1642 A.D. When employee Bruno Magli offered a choice of a Cuban heel or a store credit, Jesus momentarily unleashed his almighty

wrath but then calmed down, settling for a partial credit and some shoelaces.

He then proceeded to Bell Market, where he stacked his basket high with loaves and fishes. When he tried to take advantage of the store's five percent senior discount, however, the 1,996-year-old Western religious leader was forced to show ID.

"How was I supposed to know? He doesn't look a day over 33," muttered Bell manager Orville Redenbacher.

Next Jesus strolled over to the clothes store Joshua Simon, hoping to buy a coat of many colors. There he met fashion buyer Eve St. Laurent, who rent his garment to try to find out its manufacturer.

Down the street, a clerk at Streetlight Records mistook him for Donovan and started an autograph stampede. Running out into 24th Street, Jesus nearly commanded his soul to heaven once again, when a BMW driver with a cell phone ignored a stop sign.

Exhausted from his trials, he sat down at the counter at Herb's. He asked for a simple glass of water, which he promptly turned into a glass of wine.

"Now they've shut us down for not having a liquor license," lamented former waitress Delilah Gomorrah.

Continued in the Next Life



Savior Ignored on 24th Street. A host of angels accompanied the alleged son of God on his attempt to save a sole at Wooden Heel. Photo by Salome Gerord.

Muni Muffles Streetcar Noise With 'Music'

By the Noe Village People

"Whine, whine, whine!" harps Church Street resident Ethel Merman, describing the shrill noise made by the new Breeder J-Church streetcars.

"Whine, whine, whine!" responds Ann Judah, manager of Muni's Frivolous Complaints Department.

Meanwhile, the Loud family of 28th Street says they hear nothing at all.

Well, all the whining should officially stop on April 1, when Muni unveils its new plan to mask the cars' high-pitched screech. "Everyone will be humming a different tune on the first," says Judah.

Each Muni stop will be equipped with a loudspeaker activated by an advanced electronic brain designed by Deaf Smith. As a train approaches, the built-in random search feature will select and blast one of 10 songs from a neighborhood-appropriate list compiled monthly by a punchy *Noe Valley Voice* production crew late one Sunday night. The high volume will simultaneously drown out the whine and bring back fond musical memories.

Among the tunes they'll be broadcasting this month are "The Pina Colada Song," "Wildfire," "Honey I Miss You," "Little Green Apples," "I Am Woman," "Copacabana," "Take a Letter, Maria," "Me and You and a Dog Named Boo," "The Windmills of Your Mind," "Seasons in the Sun," "I Am...I Cried," and the theme from the movie *Billy Jack*.

And to please the kiddies, there's "It's a Small World After All," selections from Pat Boone's *In a Metal Mood*, and F.A.O. Schwartz's catchy "Welcome to Our World, Welcome to Our World, Welcome to Our World of Toys."

Continued in the Year 9595



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at the Noe Valley Ministry
Offering ATMs in Our Lobby
Direct deposit • Plenary indulgences
Bank with Jesus, a name you can trust!



Web Page Design
...for spiders...

"Take back the Web"

SHORT SNORTS

Mouse Causes Computer Virus

Twenty-fourth Street physician Elmer McFadden reports an outbreak of a computer virus that apparently jumps the blood barrier between man and machine. "Someone got bit by their mouse," said Dr. McFadden, while pasting a quarantine sign across the door at Peon Computers on Castro. The main symptoms are itchy red pixels and a runny modem.

Vermin 'R' Us

The Gerbil & Crow Bar on 24th Street will now be offering live free-range bats for home decoration or pets. "It's kind of a retro Middle Ages thing," explains bartender Ray Van Ratt.

Gladly the Peacepole I'd Bear

The Sanchez Hilltop Mall opened April 1 at Sanchez and 21st streets, featuring the newly acquired Mt. Davidson Cross. Hilltop officials have renamed it the Hilltop Mall Peacepole after affixing boughs of synthetic pine around its top.

Groovin' at the Senior Center

Dewlap and double-chin piercing will be offered at the 31st Street Senior Center starting April 1. This service joins the popular bald head tattooing service.

Realtors in Ultimate Bout

Two Noe Valley realtors will face off in an Ultimate Fighting Championship Match, a no-holds-barred martial arts tournament held at Union Square Garden. Sue "Jim" Bowie of Mason-McDaffie advanced to the final round after slapping a lien on Bill Squelch of Heifer Real Estate. Bowie's rival will be P.J. Droopi of P.J. Droopi Realti, who knocked out a wall and pulled the wool over her opponent's eyes in the semifinals at the Cow Palace. Though weapons are banned in an ultimate fight, a number of controversial moves are allowed: spitting, punching, hair-pulling, tongue-twisting, lip-smacking, eye-popping, gut-wrenching, knee-slapping, mind-blowing, backstabbing, bird-flipping, and banjo-strummin'.

MORE VIDEOS TO LOOK AT

Since you've all stopped reading, the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library has discarded its entire collection of books. Like you care. You probably aren't reading this either. So it doesn't matter what we say, does it?

Oh well, librarians Roberta "Good" Griefer and Carol "Tiny" Small have given four thumbs-up to some new videos:

✂ *Codependence Day*—Flying saucers filled with alien enablers threaten Noe Valley.

✂ *The Lunch Bag of Notre Dame*—The poignant journey of a brown paper sack—from the original tree to Bell Market to the blue recycling bin.

✂ *Noe Valley vs. Larry Flynt*—The Merchants Association gets its dander up over First Amendment rights.

✂ *The Ebonics Patient*—A student wakes up to find he has been the subject of an Oakland School District experiment and now has two tongues.

✂ *The English Impatiens*—The tortured story of a Jersey Street garden incapacitated by weeds.

✂ *Omelet*—A hammy four-hour remake of the Shakespearean play exploring the age-old question: to be or not to be the chicken or the egg.

✂ *The Browser*—A ghost takes over the old card catalog in the basement of the Main Library.

✂ *Smilla's Sense of Noe*—A half-Greenlandic biologist compares our neighborhood to Denmark, for better or worse.

✂ *That Darn Dogwalker*—Remake of Disney's classic comedy caper, set this time in Noe Valley's Douglass Park.

✂ *Secret and Lye*—The award-winning documentary about the two best-selling deoderants of all time.

✂ *Deficit and Disorder*—A modern adaptation of the Jane Austen novel "Sloth and Slovenliness."

Ramp Survey

The Muni key stop ramps, designed to make light-rail vehicles accessible to disabled passengers, have recently caused a massive controversy in Noe Valley. Local merchants and residents are protesting the placement of two of the boarding platforms, which, as currently designed, will take up 18 blocks of Church Street from 12th to 30th. To more accurately gauge reader sentiment, the *Voice* is conducting a Muni Key Stop Survey. Please don't return it to our office by April 1.

1. The best way to accommodate disabled Muni riders would be to:

- Build a 35-foot-long concrete ramp
- Install a high-speed catapult
- Glue in giant magnets that attach wheelchairs to the side of J-Church cars
- Hire limousines

2. Noe Valley residents know how to:

- Support their merchants
- Support the disabled
- Throw a fit
- Double-park

3. Key stop ramps can also be used for:

- Sledding
- Motorcycle stunts
- Geometry problems
- Extra café seating

4. The ramps should be made of:

- Recycled soda cans
- Stacks of ADA guidelines
- Goosedown



A Massive Spam Spill on 24th Street near Gurrerro was still being cleaned up April 1. A shipment of the popular luncheon meat product bound for Surreal Foods slipped from its container truck bed to the pavement, causing bloating and gastric distress over a wide area.

Photo by Jack Sprat

5. Construction will probably last:

- 8 hours
- 18 weeks
- Until the cows come home

6. Muni management has been:

- The very definition of efficiency
- Open-minded and flexible
- Communicative and concerned

7. The best location for a ramp is:

- A congested business street like Church
- A quiet residential area like 30th
- Daly City

8. How should the ramps be paid for?

- Presidential campaign contributions
- A toll booth on each ramp
- Sell the trees that Muni cut down for scrap lumber
- Sell lifetime J-Church seat licenses

9. Which safety issue concerns you most?

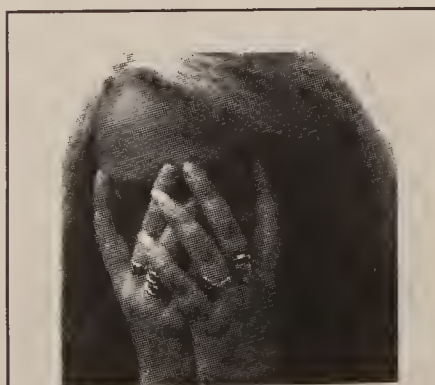
- Autos might speed up on ramps and become airborne
- Narrow sidewalks are hazardous for kids
- Jaywalkers might become confused and disoriented
- Wheelchairs could become stuck on chewing gum-covered ramps

10. Key stop ramps would be more acceptable if they:

- Twinkled with multicolored lights
- Tilted like huge seesaws
- Could be folded up when not in use
- Were cleaned weekly with toothbrushes by Muni management

11. When the new ramps are finally in place, I plan to:

- Troll endlessly for a parking space
- Shop at the big malls
- Get myself a wheelchair!



Skin Care for the 00's

repaving: tar or gravel
pore excavation
sinkholes filled
nooks & crannies
Aesthetician: Zazu Pitts

April Fool's 1997

Well, we're off to hitch a ride on that Hale-Bopp Comet. Bye!

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Crass Ads

Three-Quarter-Way House for people who are more than halfway there. Rancho Noe Valley. For information, dial 411.

Journey to the Center of the Spleen. Extremely invasive chiropractic now open on Church Street. 555-OUCH.

Lose Weight! Shed your earthly body. Heaven's Gate Human Container Loss Center. Send email to do@hale-bopmeonthehead.

White House Getaway: Spend the night at luxurious B&B in historic Lincoln Bedroom with choice of President, First Lady, or cozy cat. \$200,000 donation. Wheelchair and Muni ramp accessible. Easy walk to Beltway. McDonald's breakfast included. Call Al or Tipper at 555-HoJo.

Wanted: Combs and wax paper for band, any condition. The Singing Rain Drop, 555-Bsss.

50 & Over Silver Boomers Club: Veggie potluck and dance featuring the music of Moby Grape at Noe Valley Ministry. Bring a towel, loose comfortable clothing, and a roach clip.

Recover Lost Socks. Manual shows you how. Unless Jose's available.

Gourmet Walking Tour. View moldy leftovers and perfectly good food that should be eaten soon or else it's going to go bad at Noe Valley's 9th annual Open Refrigerators Tour, April 1. For map, visit our web site: easyoff.com.

Heisman Trophy Lost. Call A.C. and leave message. 1-800-OK-IDIDIT.

Bored of the Dance?

Lord of the Flies Step Dancing

Special Wheelchair Classes
begin April 1